

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

RON'S THE MAN FOR THE JOB



**Exclusive by
Luke Doherty**

Well travelled coach Ron Smith is a visionary, he is man who takes time to think carefully about the game, and in what should be a boost to Australian soccer as the new season gets ushered in — he also wants to be the Australian Soccer Association's next technical director.

Smith has just returned from a stay at Liverpool FC, where he was a guest of manager Gerard Houllier.

Houllier, met Smith in July last year and instantly took a liking to the way he used video analysis to break down every aspect of a game.

Smith said that his experience while on Mersey-Side taught him exactly how a soccer side, and in this case a federation should be run.

"I went as a guest and was interested in what they did, how they did it and how often they did it," Smith said.

"I left there with a clear vision of how a football club should be run and found definite common ground with the philosophies that I had."

"They had seven staff, who were gainfully used. It allowed a lot more opportunity for coaches to do specialist training."

"The maintenance of training grounds was impeccable. The conduct of every training session was quality from start to finish."

Smith, who has coached in

Malaysia and been associated with Australian soccer for 28 years said that he has made it known to the powers that be that he wants to be the technical director next year.

"I've made my interest known."

"I've spent 8 years overseas and I want to spend a bit more time in Australia."

"My heart is in Australian football. I've spent 28 years in Australian football."

He remains adamant that the game can improve more than imaginable if the right resources are driven into the game.

The Asian FA's have done this and now they are reaping the rewards of strong Korean and Japanese leagues.

The other notable candidate for the position is

Houllier himself. Although Houllier would be an asset for the game in this country, the likelihood of him leaving Anfield isn't good.

Smith is here now and he has a solid view that ranges from the grass roots of the youth system, to the top echelons of the game.

He has mastered \$15,000 computer system called Sportscode professional which allows managers to pick anything from the game and analyse it in minute detail.

The program isn't widely used among NSL clubs at the moment mainly because of the lack of funding to buy it,

but Smith says, teams and FA's that have used the program have improved dramatically. It even impressed Liverpool's experienced staff.

"I was sitting down with (Liverpool coach) Sammy Lee and he was amazed just how one program could pin point where players were going wrong or patterns of play breaking down."

"Sportscode professional has been in Australia for some time it's just having the resources to invest in it that has been a problem."

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ADELAIDE UNITED TARGET ROOS

By Mark Stavroulakis

Imagine a team with the likes of Socceroos Tony Vidmar, John Aloisi and Stan Lazaridis in the squad?

These are just some of the players new club Adelaide United are targeting just in time for next season's launch of the new Australian Premier League.

President and former OFC Chief Basil Scarsella last week made it quite clear to the press that the club will do what they can in luring South Australia's best talent from around the world as well as around the National League.

Attracting the overseas stars like Aloisi, Vidmar and Lazaridis will obviously be a long-term goal for the club however it is something Scarsella hopes he can accomplish for the South Australian soccer fans.

"There are South Australians in almost every NSL club and while we couldn't bring them all home we would be hopeful of signing four or five players", Scarsella stated to "The Advertiser".

Uncontracted players will be monitored and chased by the South Australian club who

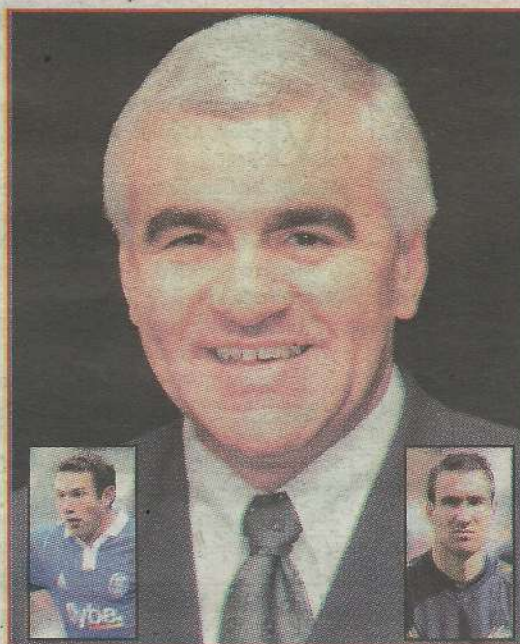
have stated that they are not willing to pay any enormous transfer fees for these targeted players.

The National League stars that have been targeted by the club have all been South Australian players born and bred: Lucas Pantelis (Power), Iain Fyfe (Olympic), Scott Tunbridge (South Melbourne), Travis Dodd (Power), Louis Brain (Brisbane), Angelo Costanzo (Marconi), Alex Tobin (Northern Spirit), Jason Petkovic (Perth Glory),

Damian Mori (Perth Glory) and Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic) have all been chosen as hopeful recruits for John Kosmina's squad.

Recruitment for the new-year will start as soon as the club is assured of a spot in the new APL competition next season it was confirmed by Scarsella.

The bells will be certainly ringing in the 'City of Churches' if these targets once again call Adelaide home.



Basil Scarsella has targeted Stan Lazaridis and Tony Vidmar for Adelaide United

GOOD LUCK YOUNG SOCCEROOS



What's Inside ABSW This Week:

- Farina Opts For Winter NSL (Page 3)
- Peace Dream Becomes A Reality For Iraq (Page 4)
- Politis To Return? (Page 4)
- Alex Tobin On The Mend (Page 14)
- AUSSIE AT REAL MADRID!!! (Page 15)
- Is Winter Really The Answer? (Page 15)

Plus a pull-out poster of Roberto Carlos (Pg 16) & Liverpool FC (Back Page)

Plus all Round 10 National League action with reports and statistics on pages 6-7-8-15 and 19

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Full details please refer to Page 5.

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BY DANIEL KUZIW

Leeds United caretaker boss Eddie Gray has confirmed Mark Viduka will play at the weekend provided he is fit, and urged the rest of the squad to aid the Australian.

Viduka was cast into the wilderness under former Elland Road chief Peter Reid, but the Merseysider's departure has handed the Australian a reprieve.

Gray said the slate had been wiped clean for all players and he feels Viduka will be key to helping Leeds climb out of trouble.

"There's been a lot written about Mark Viduka recently, but he will play against Bolton if he is fit," Gray told the club's website. "He is an important member of the squad here."

"We have to make him play, the more balls you get into him the more he gets into the game and the better he is."

A quick fire first-half double from Australian striker David Zdrilic gave Aberdeen victory over a spirited Inverurie Locos outfit in this Centenary Challenge match at Harlaw Park last week.

Zdrilic and young defender Zander Diamond were outstanding in a match held to mark the centenary year of both clubs.

Dons assistant manager Duncan Shearer appreciated the run-out ahead of Saturday's tough SPL trip to Ibrox.

Shearer said: "We played well in the first half especially, but when you come to places like Harlaw Park it's all about your attitude and tonight we got it right."

"I thought that David Zdrilic was excellent and took his goals exceptionally well, while Zander Diamond totally deserved the man-of-the-match award."

Burnley will take a closer look at Australia Under-20s left-sided midfielder David Carney after he impressed in a reserves match.

The former Everton FA Youth Cup winner scored in Burnley reserves' 4-3 defeat to Sheffield United last week, and Carney will remain on trial so boss Stan Ternent can weigh up whether to offer a contract to the youngster.

Ternent was made aware of Carney's availability after the prospect was turned down following trials at Scottish Premier League club Dunfermline.

Australian midfielder Jacob Burns has agreed to extend his contract with Barnsley by a further month.



Wimbeldon star Scott McDonald will skipper the Young Socceroos in the UAE

The 25-year-old was released by Leeds United last season and arrived at Oakwell in October, after a trial with Serie A side Perugia came to nothing.

Burns agreed an initial one-month deal with the Tykes after impressing manager Gudjon Thordarson with his displays during training.

Since then the Australian has made four starts and two substitute appearances for the club, doing well enough to be offered the new deal.

Millwall's Tim Cahill has taken a swipe at ex-Rangers and Manchester United coach Archie Knox over his time at the club.

Knox demanded Cahill play as a defensive midfielder, a role he was unhappy with.

"That restricted me," the 23-year-old told the Evening Mail.

"It was the first time that had happened to me in six years of playing. Previously, I had been left to my own devices. I had 200 games under my belt and scored 10 goals a season."

"Knox was not here long

enough to understand me. He has had a great career and has a fantastic reputation. But that is not enough if you cannot gel with the squad. I did not know where I stood. Everything seemed to go pear-shaped. There was no continuity and that made preparation difficult."

"I want to establish myself as a holding midfielder and a ball-player. That means adapting."

Cahill admits he is looking forward to winning his first cap with Australia in January.

"I have been told I am part of coach Frank Farina's plans if I am playing well and if I am fit."

"Being told that gives him a chance to see me and how I do. They have waited nine years for me to be cleared to play for them so they are making sure I am on board."

Cheltenham midfielder Lee Howells admitted he is struggling after 18 months on the sidelines.

Howells only recently returned to action after being out with a broken leg he suffered in March 2002.

He made his 450th start for the club against Torquay last week and has vowed to recapture his best form.

"It's been a difficult time for me and no player can be out for 18 months and then come back exactly the same player," he told the club's website.

"Maybe it's true that time has caught me up a bit but the more I play the fitter and better I feel."

"I'm still certain that as long as the fitness is there and the power is in my legs then I can play at this level."

Hull City's leading scorer Danny Allsopp was been locked in a desperate battle to prove his fitness for City's clash against promotion rivals Yeovil Town at the KC Stadium last Saturday.

The Australian star did not train all week due to a groin injury and manager Peter Taylor has put Jamie Forrester on full alert for his first league start of the season.

Taylor said: "We haven't ruled Danny out yet and he's still got a chance of playing."



"It was always the plan for him to miss training for the first three days of this week, as a precaution."

"However, he had a bit of a setback yesterday. The injury is feeling sore. Hopefully, it's just a hiccup but we'll just have to see how he is over the next 24 hours."

Allsopp's nine goals have been one of the key factors in City's rise to the top of the Third Division this season and the Tigers have struggled since he ran into injury problems.

The Young Socceroos scored a comfortable 3-1 win over a Queensland Select side last Thursday night at the Queensland Lions Soccer Club in their final match prior to this week's FIFA World Youth Championship in the United Arab Emirates.

Two goals to Marconi's Alex Brosque and a late goal to Northern Spirit's Jonathan Richter ensured victory against a competitive local side that featured Brisbane Strikers player-coach Stuart McLaren.

The Young Socceroos created numerous opportunities throughout the match and could have won by a larger margin although coach Ange Postecoglou's satisfaction with the display was tempered by a shoulder injury sustained by captain Scott McDonald who went off after ten minutes as a precautionary measure.

This match follows the Young Roos two-nil victory over the Malaysian U23's squad with goals to Scott McDonald and Dustin Wells.

The draw for the Australians at the World Youth Championship is:

Friday 28 November (8.30pm)
- Australia v Czech Republic, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Monday 1 December (5.45pm)
- Australia v Canada, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Thursday 4 December (5.45pm) - Australia v Brazil, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

(N.B. all times are local time - UAE is 7 hours behind Australian Eastern Summer Time)

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RON'S THE MAN FOR THE JOB (Continued From Front Page)

"There's been some tough times, but it's an investment that would be there for ever."

If you look at it over a 10 year period then it's well worth it."

His abilities don't just stop on the technical side of the game. Having been on the touch lines as well — he knows how to help the players as well.

"Young players are a good example. They say I'm going to train harder but it might not be what needs to be done. The enthusiasm is there but it's not always what needs to be done."

"It's one thing to train but another to know what needs to be trained. You have to identify what can be improved."

"Kids looking at what there idols do and then trying to

implement that into their own game is great."

His emphasis is on using every available resource to better the game. One of the biggest resources that Australia has, with its 600 000 registered players, is the amount of youth in the NSL.

The NSL has already been a breeding ground for Brett Emerton, Mark Viduka, Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella.

Smith said that the dilemma of players leaving for foreign league's instead of playing in the NSL could be closer to ending than most people think.

"Some of the changes will be forced by legislation. For seven or eight years there has been this carrot dangling overseas for

players which has been the money."

"Legislation by FIFA has made the movement of young people virtually impossible. They can't move anymore like they well could have done."

"If the league is rewarding enough with money and the quality of football then players should stay."

"The World football economy has gone down though. There are more players out of work in Europe than ever so contracts for young footballers are hard to get and that is positive for the NSL."

Smith has the vision, he has the plan and all that he may have to be shown is where to sign on the dotted line.



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**Frank Farina believes
winter is the way to go
for the new NSL.**

Socceroo coach Frank Farina wants a return to winter National League football as part of the new reformed league for next season.

A current topic that has surfaced in the Australian media in both print and television, a heated debate has broken out between the soccer fraternity in terms of which season to kick off the new National League, summer or winter?

"If you want better quality on the park, you need professional footballers training twice a day and that is an impossibility in summer weather conditions. Playing in winter would revive the opportunity of bringing top European teams to tour here while our players are at their peak fitness midway through the season", Farina stated to the 'Herald Sun' last week.

The break after the NSL season is over has been somewhat of a concern to players and coaches in Australia. It's calculated that four months is missed during the internal off-season break.

Summer soccer first began in 1989 when it took soccer lovers in this country by storm, however recent bad events that have choked the world game under the old Soccer Australia regime had brought the game backward.

Farina believes that stadiums across Australia are more equipped to winter conditions rather than the summer.

"In summer people have so many things to do. And let's be honest, where does it freeze in Australia?"

Certainly not Perth or Adelaide; Sydney has its best weather in winter and Melbourne possibly has a few really cold days", stated

the Socceroo coach to the 'Herald Sun'.

Another topic that was touched by Farina was a rule he hopes will come into fruition in the next few months on selecting Australian players from the national league rather than

overseas in both the U17 & U20 sides. "Too many are going away too early and getting stuck playing reserve football. My idea is they would be better off playing in the NSL. Playing senior football for league points is where they should get tough-

ened up between the ages of 16 & 20", concluded Farina to the 'Herald Sun'.

Read on Page 18 for ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis' view on whether winter is the way to go?



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UNSW Women's Super League is to be coached by Head Women's Coach, Dez Marton.

All trials to be held at David Phillips Fields, Cnr Banks and Gwea Ave, Daceyville.

Tuesday 25th November 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Sunday 30th November 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	9.00am to 11am
Tuesday 2nd December 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	7.30pm to 9.30pm
Sunday 7th December 2003	- 1st Grade & Under 21's	9.00am to 11am

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As part of UNSW's youth development policy, UNSW Girls Youth League (U/12's, U/14's and U/16's) has been entered in 2004, players required.

**For further information on
Women's Super League or Girl's Youth League
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PEACE DREAM BECOMES REALITY

By Richard Kreider

The visiting Iraqi national football team secured the 'World Peace Game' trophy at the expense of the Australian Representative side at Arena Joondalup but nevertheless, their coach Bernd Stange chose to celebrate the fulfilment of a long-standing dream rather than the game's outcome.

The team arrived from their war-ravaged nation last Friday and had only two days to acclimatise, which included training on a grass surface.

An 89th minute bullet-like header from Abbas H Hassan proved the only difference in an even, albeit momentous encounter for the players and 2,800 world football fans in attendance, which included the WA Premier Dr Geoff Gallop.

Even Australia's Prime Minister John Howard got in on the act with a video-taped message that was broadcast on a giant screen prior to kick-off.

"The smiles and spirit are much

more important," said former Perth Glory's charismatic coach Stange after the game which was contested in humid conditions. "Forget the result it was the event that was more significant. Normally, I would have made a 'thunderstorm' in the changing rooms but it was the 'message' rather than performance that mattered today," he said on his side's below-par display.

Much of the reason for the visitors not firing though can be put down to the no-nonsense tackling attitude of the Representative team, especially in their defensive zone, which was superbly marshalled by their lofty skipper Adrian Sutton.

Goalkeeper Neil Young was equally outstanding following a couple of quality reflex saves in the opening half.

Guest player, former Soccerroo



Goal-mouth action during the Iraq-WA clash.
(Photo By Richard Kreider)

midfielder Robbie Slater, executed some classy touches that he once possessed in abundance during his English Premier League heyday, only to eventually have age prove his toughest opponent over the ninety minutes.

"This was a massive game for West Australian soccer," said Australian Representative coach,

Paul Simmons. "They (Iraq) were the better side with their first-touch football but our quick closing-down approach worked really well against that."

"Believe me, our lads wanted to win. They had been buzzing all week," said Simmons, who is in his first year as boss of the WA State Team after leaving local club

ECU Joondalup.

After a fairly even first-half, the second would be no different, where both midfields were gridlocked and defences uncompromising.

Tireless Iraqi midfielder Qusay M Aboudy was inspirational in the middle-third, as was his skipper Muhaned M Ali, while left-sided wingback Todd Howarth of the Perth Soccer Club, Australian Institute of Sport midfielder Nick Ward and Sorrento

striker Andy Mason all grafted hard with confidence for the home team.

Just when the game appeared heading for a disappointing goal-less conclusion and a PA message informed the spectators a penalty-shootout would be used to find a winner in the event of a draw, a perfect left-side centre from Jasim

S Fayad in the closing stages picked out Hassan on the six-yard line. The tall striker finished off the move by climbing high and bulging the net with an unstoppable header, which sent the large contingent of Iraqi supporters into a frenzy.

"I am so happy with the WA people and Mr Gallop to have given us so much support," said Stange, who has reportedly spent at least \$20,000 of his own money on the team, who recently qualified for next years Asian Cup.

The Iraqi's, who are ranked 52nd in the world (although many of the travelling players are from the Olympic squad), prepared for another exhibition game at Albany's Collingwood Park last Saturday against the West Australian State side ahead of a number of other commitments during their 10-day visit which include coaching clinics and WA State and Mayoral receptions before jetting out of Perth International Airport on the Sunday.

POLITIS TO RETURN?



Soccer is back on the agenda for Nick Politis.

Former Sydney Olympic owner Nick Politis is considering returning to local football.

'The Australian' says Politis is keen on winning one of the franchise contracts and has made his interest known to NSL chairman and Australian Soccer Association Task Force member Remo Nogaretto.

An insider confirmed to the Australian that Politis was "still interested" in an involvement with the national league.

"He is missing it (soccer) but he will only be involved again under the right conditions," he said. "Certainly, changes have to be made before he throws his money in."

Politis is currently the chairman at Rugby League club the Sydney City Roosters and two seasons ago was in charge of the Olympic Sharks who won two championship titles during his reign as chairman. It is rumored that a new team could eventuate under Politis with a well-known current National League coach who could possibly bring a ready made squad for the new side.

MERRICK SENT ON IMPORTANT MISSION



Empoli and Soccerroos star Vince Grella shown with VIS coach Ernie Merrick.

The Scottish Football Association has commissioned a report to investigate the restructuring of football in Scotland.

The structure of the game in Scotland will be modernised and streamlined as a result of the PMP Report.

The Scottish Institute of Sport is investigating their role in the elite developmental pathway and how they can assist the National Youth Team in preparing for international competition. Victorian Institute of Sport Head Soccer Coach, Ernie Merrick, was invited to the SIS to assist the process.

Ernie met with SIS CEO Anne Marie Harrison, coaches Ross Jack and Stuart

Rafferty, the SFA Director of Football Development Jim Sinclair and SIS support staff in the areas of sports science, physical preparation and ACE. The final report will be presented to the SFA in December.

Prior to the SIS visit, Ernie arranged to meet VIS soccer graduate and current Soccerroo Vince Grella in Florence, Italy. Ernie attended a match between Vince's club Empoli and Chievo and also observed training sessions. Grella is a first team regular in Serie A and is rumoured to be moving to Juventus at the end of the year.

This is yet another example of Australian coaches being monitored by overseas clubs and nations.

Recently, former AIS head-coach Ron Smith took part as Liverpool FC's special guest and was involved in a number training sessions with the first team squad.

Dukes to help Croatian orphans



Helping out a good cause: Leeds United's Mark Viduka.

Leeds United striker Mark Viduka plans to plough some of his fortune into the struggling Croatian economy.

The Australia international also hopes to establish an orphanage in Croatia, to help house displaced kids following the years of internal conflict following the break-up of Tito's Yugoslavia. He told the Australian: "I love Croatia."

"It is a rich country. I love playing for the Soccerroos, but there's not much money in Croatia."

"You have to go there to see the number of kids left without parents and fending for themselves since the war ended. I get paid well. I want to use some of this money for what I believe is a worthwhile cause." He also sees Croatia's Adriatic coastline as potential for massive growth.

"Tourism brings a lot of foreigners to the country," Viduka said. "I'm looking at maybe building a hotel or getting someone to build for me a cruise boat which would sail the many islands found off the Dalmatian coast."

D'Avray: Adelaide Utd is the future

Perth Glory coach Mich D'Avray was excited by the crowd his team played in front of at Adelaide United in their round nine clash at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Glory won 4-1 in front of almost 14,000 United fans and D'Avray told the West Australian: "It was a strange feeling for us going to an away game an hour and-a-half before kick-off and there being so much activity and a buzz about the place."

"I believe this is going to be the future. We'll go to most games and it will be like that."

"We just had the balance we've been looking for since the start of the season."

The cohesion was there.

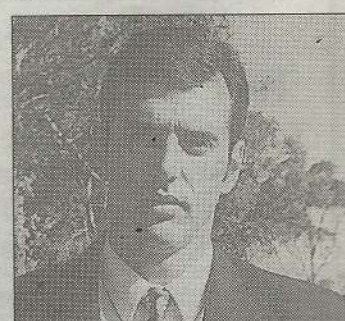
"It was a game where most things came together for us."

We defended fairly well, created opportunities, as we have been doing, and we took them."

Its been a true sign that the new Adelaide United venture has worked to a tee and at this stage the Adelaide public have taken the side in their arms. Many National League experts have called this meteoric rise in terms of crowd attendances at Hindmarsh like the ones seen at the Glory and when the Northern Spirit first started out with its new venture.

Coach John Kosmina has been seen as huge public figure in Adelaide which

proudly sports two other sides in rival codes the Adelaide 36ers and Adelaide Crows.



Glory coach Mich D'Avray believes that Adelaide is on the right path-way for the NSL.

SUPER LEAGUE

STANMORE HAWKS
1st Grade
Under 20's

TRIALS FOR 2004

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TRIALS
For Both
1st Grade
& Under 20's on
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No WAITing As Nick Walks Out

Melbourne Knights striker Nick Waite last week left his side in limbo after parting company with the club after only nine rounds leaving the Knights with no recognized striker.

A former Frankston Pines striker in the local Victorian Premier League, Waite decided that enough was enough after the Knights' damaging five-nil loss to rivals South Melbourne.

The reason for his departure was rumoured to be due to the constant heckling made by the Knights fans but coach Ian Dobson believes it was other things.

"He came in to see me half an hour before training and told me he's finding it extremely difficult to cope with the travelling and his work commitments", Dobson stated the "Herald Sun".

Under the books of player agent and former Socceroo Eddie Krncevic, the 22-year-old was travelling from Mornington to Sunshine five times a week to train, a strain for any footballer.

"He was finding it difficult to adjust to this level and I appreciated he came and saw me face to face rather than do it in a phone call", Dobson said to the "Herald Sun".

Having been billed with high expectations from backing up from a terrific VPL season, Waite scored 21 goals but failed to hit the net with the Knights in his six appearances for Dobson's squad.

His walk-out could not have come at a worse time for the Knights who are currently facing a strikers injury crisis with both long term injuries to Peter Buljan and Henry Fa'arodo.

It looks as though U17 Joeys striker and star in the making Serkan Oksuz will fill the void as he is the only recognized striker in the squad.

Look to see current Knights top scorer Anthony Pelikan squeeze into the attackers role even though traditionally an attacking midfielder, the hopeful U23 star has managed to score five goals this season leading the Knights scorers chart.

"We'll probably push Anthony into the role. He's been our most dangerous player, but he's only one player and people forget he's only 21 years old as well", said Dobson to "The Herald".

Melbourne Knights had the bye last week and will look towards fine tuning their skills in time for this Saturday nights clash against the Strikers in Brisbane.



Nick Waite has parted company with the Knights.



2004

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**COMPETITION CLOSE
FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER**



National Soccer League



Newcastle United

Newcastle United

0

Sydney Olympic

Sydney Olympic

1

By Pano Tagaroulas

Newcastle United's poor form continued as they're winless streak was extended to five matches following their 1-0 defeat at the hands of Sydney Olympic.

The game was played in front of a record low 1651 spectators who braved the adverse weather conditions. For the home side this was only their fourth defeat at Energy Australia Stadium in the past 3 seasons.

The match looked headed for a 0-0 draw before a controversial decision by referee Craig Zetter to send off United captain Robbie Middleby for a late tackle on Joseph Schirripa. Olympic then took control of the match and broke the deadlock on 83 minutes through youngster Zenon Caravella to secure a 1-0 victory.

United coach Ian Crook reinstated Esala Masi up front in place Greg Owens despite his recent poor goalscoring form. The Fijian international

had just one goal to his name in nine matches and had failed to score since the opening day of the season. Young defender Josh Mitchell replaced the injured Peter Tsekenis while Adam Griffiths was pushed forward into a central midfield role.

For the away side Troy Halpin made his first start for the club since resigning after appearing as a substitute in last weeks 2-2 draw with the Kingz.

The opening stages of the match saw an end to end battle between the two sides with both teams looking to take all three points. On 13 minutes the away side almost opened the scoring from an Iain Fyfe header inside the six-yard box. Troy Halpin's curling free kick picked out the young defender whose downward header was pushed away by Newcastle custodian John Perosh.

Just a minute later Newcastle thought they had taken the lead through Ryan Griffiths. Milan Blagojevic shrugged off the challenge of



Stylish Olympic midfielder Zenon Caravella was his side's hero as the youngster scored the vital goal to gift the Blues three valuable points against Newcastle.

his defender before firing a shot from the edge of the area. The ball was spilled by goalkeeper Brett Hughes into the path of Griffiths who found the back of the net with a tap in.

However, the young striker was clearly in an offside position. The goal was correctly disallowed by referee Craig Zetter.

The best chance of the first half was created on 42 minutes when Esala Masi was found unmarked in the Olympic penalty area with only the keeper to beat.

A Craig Deans cross from the right picked out the striker who chested the ball down before he side footed his shot straight into goalkeeper Brett Hughes.

The home side continued to create chances in the second half but poor finishing in front of goal kept the scores locked at 0-0.

In the 48 minute Masi played a ball to Middleby on the right whose pass picked out the run of Adam Griffiths in the box. The United midfielder was unmarked in the Olympic penalty area but could only fire his shot into the side netting.

Although both sides had chances neither could really trouble the respective goalkeepers. Pablo Cardozo rarely looked threatening up

front for Olympic with only one goal to his credit this season.

The Olympic striker did have a great opportunity to give the away side the lead on 73 minutes. The experienced striker found himself in behind the United defence with only the keeper to beat.

However, his shot was blocked by the outstretched leg of keeper John Perosh.

On 78 minutes referee Craig Zetter made the controversial decision to send off Robbie Middleby for a late tackle on ex-teammate Joseph Schirripa. Both coaches agreed that the send off was harsh with United boss Ian Crook saying, "I didn't think it was a send off."

"I think the conditions made it look worse," added Olympic coach Peter Papanikitas.

It took just five minutes for the Sydney based club to capitalise on their extra man advantage. A poor throw from United custodian John Perosh gifted possession to Olympic's Japanese star Hiroyuki Ishida.

The pacy midfielder played the ball wide to Schirripa whose cross picked out an unmarked Caravella on the far post. The twenty year old youngster drove his low shot into the bottom left corner to score his first ever NSL

goal, giving Olympic a late 1-0 lead. Sydney Olympic held on to seal the 1-0 victory which moves the club onto eleven points placing them in 8th position on the NSL ladder.

Meanwhile United remain in 7th place despite their recent poor form which has seen the club slip from top spot after only picking up a solitary point from their last five games.

Ian Crook was disappointed with his side's effort on the night saying, "I thought they showed a lot more commitment and desire."

"Every single person needs to have a look at themselves," added a despondent Crook.

Player Ratings

Newcastle United: J Perosh (gk) 6, C Deans 7, A Griffiths 6, S Thomas 6, R Griffiths 6, M Johnson 6, J Mitchell 6, M Blagojevic (64-) 6, E Masi (64-) 6, D Brown 5, R Middleby 6.
Subs: B Kennedy (gk) 6, G Owens (64+) 6, M Wilson (64+) 6, P McPherson.

Sydney Olympic: B Hughes (gk) 7, P Kohler 7, A Juric 7, J Schirripa 7, I Fyfe 7, P Cardozo 6, T Halpin 8, E Augerinos (79-) 6, C Goutziolis 7, H Ishida 7, Z Caravella 8.
Subs: G Moss (gk) 6, S Souris, J Bakis (79+) 6, I Karlovic.

Brisbane Strikers

Brisbane Strikers

4

Parramatta Power

Parramatta Power

2

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers turned around successive losses to move back into the top six with an upset 4-2 win over Parramatta Power at Perry Park on Saturday.

The Strikers claimed their biggest scalp of the season courtesy of substitutes Josh Rose and Steve Fitzsimmons who played leading roles.

The home side showed remarkable composure to twice come from behind to level the scores with a shell-shocked Power conceding three goals in the final 20 minutes to allow Brisbane to slip into fifth spot.

With the half time score deadlock one apiece Rose was the hero for Brisbane coming on in the 68th minute as substitute for Brisbane's first half goal scorer Warren Moon.

Rose knocked the ball in from close range in a goal mouth scramble five min-

utes after taking the field to level the score 2-2 in the 71st minute.

Rose got his double in the 86th minute racing onto a through ball from Luke Morley.

Power's defenders appealed for off-side, but Rose played to the whistle before curling his shot around former Strikers keeper Clint Bolton.

Luke Morley completed the upset when he made it 4-2 with a 90th minute strike for his fourth goal of the season.

The Strikers needed this win after losing two away matches although it had drawn with fancied teams Perth and Sydney Olympic at home.

Parramatta were big spenders in the off-season, including the prized purchase of former Strikers midfielder Fernando Rech.

Rech, who was having his first start for the Power in three games after a groin injury, looked threatening

from the outset but was generally restrained by a workman like Brisbane midfielder.

The Brazilian had an early opportunity as he shaped for a long drive but eventually chipped over the crossbar.

However, Rech then started a good 11th minute move in the middle of the park, passed wide to Travis Dodd, who curled a cross into Brisbane's box.

Power striker Ante Milicic was on hand to leap high and head past Strikers keeper Scott Higgins for the visitors opening goal.

Brisbane countered quickly and only for some brilliant work by Power keeper Bolton, could have pulled level in the 16th minute.

Midfielder Louis Brain hammered a shot from close range, but Bolton was equal to the task.

Brisbane's Warren Moon locked up the scores 1-1 in the 33rd minute and just missed a chance at putting

the hosts ahead when he was denied by the Power keeper in the 43rd minute.

Strikers' keeper Scott Higgins also was kept honest holding out a scorching strike from Rech before the Brazilian eventually was rewarded for his efforts putting Power ahead with a goal against his former club in the 58th minute.

But 11 minutes later the momentum of the game changed when Strikers' player-coach Stu McLaren made his telling replacement, bringing on Rose for

Players Ratings

Brisbane Strikers: Higgins 7, Dodd 7, Steffanuto 7, McLoughlin 7, Webber 7, Brownlie 6 (Dredger 90' 7), Grierson 7, Brain 7, Pilic 6 (Fitzsimmons 83' 7), Moon 6 (Rose 64' 8), Morley 7.

Parramatta Power: Bolton 7, Ceccoli 6, Beauchamp 6, Todd 6 (Pantelis 59' 7), Gumprecht 7, Milicic 7, Rech 8, Sobczyk 7 (O'Grady 88' 6), Buonavoglia, Elrich 7, Zorbas 6 (Thompson 69' 6)

Moon. McLaren was forced to the bench for the Power clash after incurring a two match suspension and watched the match in a raincoat and armed with a walkie-talkie from the roof of Perry Park grandstand as

rain tumbled down. McLaren credited Rose and the wet conditions for the upset. "Tonight's circumstances sort of swung in our favour," he said.

Parramatta coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said he

was pleased with Power's attacking play but not defensively.

"I don't think we were greatly disappointing offensively but defensively we could have done a little better," he said.



Joshua Rose sent hot-shots Parramatta packing with two goals in the Strikers four-two upset win last week.



National Soccer League



Northern Spirit

0



Sydney United

1

By Luke Doherty

Despite a desperate scramble in the Sydney United goal mouth well into injury time, a 10 man United managed to hold onto their slender 1-0 lead to give them victory over the Northern Spirit in gale force winds at Pittwater Park on Sunday night.

Brendon Santalab's third minute strike proved the difference in a game that was marred by rain and wind, that at times even forced the coaches from the sidelines and into the stands.

United were forced to play out the final 23 minutes of the game with 10 men after midfielder Marko Filipovic was sent from the field after being booked twice in two minutes.

But United coach Grant Lee said he wasn't happy about the sending off.

"It was very soft," Lee said. "There were a lot of naughty things and elbows going on out there tonight and he has sent the kid off for being too slow to take a throw in and pulling a guys shirt who wasn't hardly in an attacking position." "They were the two softest challenges of the night."

For an attack that has only

scored 6 goals in 8 matches, United certainly turned it on against the Spirit and while most of the Spirit attack went through the air, United's mid-field weren't afraid to pass it.

Spirit had more than enough chances to level the scores in the second half but shots from Vuko Tomesovic, Brad Groves and Brent Fisher were spectacularly turned away by United keeper Liam Reddy.

The game was emotionally charged on the field, but unfortunately that emotion spilled into the stands with flares being lit and hurled onto the field by spectators.

The first half started with a 3rd minute goal to United's Brendon Santalab. Santalab capitalised on some lazy defence from the Spirit to slip it past an out stretched Paul Henderson.

It was Santalab's first goal for United since returning from a successful stint in Singapore.

Both he and pacey midfielder Anthony Doumanis looked dangerous all game - in what would have been a welcome change from the often stagnant attack that United coach Grant Lee is used to watching.

Spirit striker Adam Kwaznik almost levelled the scores in the 16th minute but his point blank turn and shot was saved by

United shot stopper Liam Reddy.

Ian Ferguson, who normally would have run the Spirit mid-

field, night was cut short after suffering a thigh injury. The former Scottish international, who would have been more than comfortable in the horrendous conditions was replaced by youngster Steven Baveas at half time.

Both teams battled with the elements as torrential rain belted across the ground for most of the match - making the passing game virtually useless, but

the challenges still came flying in with Spirit defender Julian Watts and Matt Osman both seeing yellow for late tackles.

With that Spirit and United both turned to the air with Spirit flankers John Hutchinson and Wayne O'Sullivan trying desperately to target, big man, Dylan Mcallister in the box but for no result.

Next week is a more imposing problem for Mckinna. They face an out of sorts Parramatta Power who have now lost two games in a row. You cant see them making it three, especially at home. But Mckinna said that the next weeks game isn't going to be when the sleeping Power giant, is awoken.

"I think they are more worried about us," Mckinna said.

"Tonight's performance worried us a bit but we are happy with the way we are going."

The win cements United's place in the top six and they will be looking to capitalise on Sunday's performance with a win over Marconi.



Sydney United's Labinot Haliti had a solid game in his team's one-nil vital away victory against rivals Northern Spirit.

Players Rating

Northern Spirit: P Henderson (gk) 7, J Watts 7, N Spencer 7, M Osman 7, W O'Sullivan 8, V Tomesovic 7, I Ferguson 6, J Hutchinson 6, D Macallister 8, B Groves 6, A Kwaznik 7

Sydney United: L Reddy (gk) 9, L Haliti 6, M Cunico 7, J Vrkic 8, D Huxley 7, F Parisi 7, D Collins 8, P Markovic 8, M Rudan 7, A Doumanis 9, S Babic 6, D Heffernan 6, B Santalab 9, M Filipovic 5, I Necevski (gk)



Kingz

3



Marconi Stallions

1

THE Football Kingz rediscovered a winning touch when upsetting the third-placed Marconi Stallions with a deserved victory at Ericsson Stadium in Auckland last Sunday.

The Kingz scored their first win of the NSL season with a spirited performance and, apart from brief flurries early in both spells, Marconi seldom threatened.

Encouraged by picking up their first point this season, in Sydney a week ago, the Kingz began boldly apart from an early scare when Joe Spiteri ghosted in behind the Kingz defence and fired a shot which goalkeeper Michael Utting did well to push away from point-blank range.

It was a tough reintroduction for Utting, back from injury after missing all but the season-opener. For the rest of the first half he was, however, relatively unempoyed.

"That save and the one he made in the second half are what make Michael Utting a world class keeper," Kingz coach Ken Dugdale said.

"But he wasn't the only one to stand up out there. It was a

good performance across the park."

Dugdale said his players were more confident on the ball and they did not concede cheap goals.

"To score three goals from set play was encouraging. The delivery was good for the first two. The third was a cracker."

The Kingz had their first opportunity in the 12th minute when Aleksander Midtsian floated in a free kick which John Tambouras met neatly with a header.

It was headed goalwards but Marconi goalkeeper Michael Turnbull somehow got his legs in the way.

Not next time, though. From a Jeff Campbell corner in the 28th minute, Tambouras headed down and over the line to beat despairing attempts by Turnbull and Angelo Costanzo.

Marconi's best chance in the first spell came 12 minutes from the break when Jeremy Harris was left unmarked but he miskicked badly as Utting desperately chased back.

Marconi hit the ground running after the break and from the second of three quick corners they forced Utting into a

fine reaction save.

Well-served at the back by Mauro Donoso, Tambouras and Espen Schjervén, and with timely assistance from Jason Rowley and Campbell, the Kingz looked a more compact outfit.

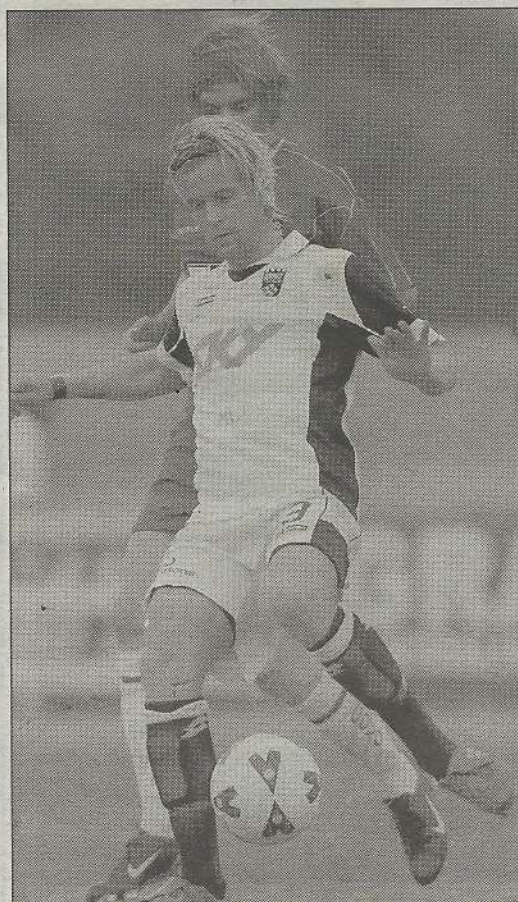
The midfield, led by captain Chris Jackson and Mark Burton, provided the link to an attack which relished the ball.

The second goal, in the 65th minute, came when a ball from Campbell found Tallen Martin who, under pressure from Simon Bell, gathered and flicked away from the advancing Turnbull and into the goal.

Marconi reacted angrily, claiming Martin had handled the ball but referee Derek Rugg ignored their pleas.

That 2-0 lead became 3-0 again following a controversy when Midtsian fired a rocket into the Marconi goal from a free kick awarded on the edge of the penalty area after Costanzo had clashed with Paul Harries.

Now coasting home, the Kingz gave up a late goal when Nick Carle beat Ross Nicholson, who, as a precaution, had replaced Utting, from



Norwegian Kingz recruit Aleksander Midtsian scored a rocket free-kick in the side's first victory of the season against the Marconi Stallions.

the penalty spot following a hand-ball call.

"We won't be the last team to lose here this season," Marconi coach Jean-Paul De

Marigny said.

"There was definitely no complacency on our part."

Source - AAP



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National Soccer League



Wollongong Wolves

2



Perth Glory

1

By Otto Bader

Beware of the Wolves, that is the main headline going around in the National League at the moment after the South Coast claimed yet another huge scalp.

First it was the Power then this week it was last years champions Perth Glory.

Another giant-killer act, the battler stumped the top outfit, unbelievable with the few fans turning up in bad weather, the crowd announced was 1879, it more support.

A fumble by highly rated goalkeeper Jason Petkovic letting a 4th minute long range shot from Wolves striker Stuart Young trickling

into his goal, produced a most unlikely first goal lead for the Wolves. Admitting the home side looked hungry in the first 15 minutes - Perth's quality showed and produced "a hundred-and-one" opportunities but to no avail.

Talking to Parramatta coach Nick Theo after the game, he watched as an interested neutral observer and stated the tenacity of the Wolves working extremely hard for the points frustrated Perth who should have scored "six" however could not find the net. In the 69th minute Damien Mori ran away and hammered the ball into the net to notch up the Glory's only goal. By that time the Wolves were leading two-nil with a second

goal from Chimaobi Nwagazi, his only shot allowed by a tight defence, low and hard into the corner of the Perth goal.

Wolves coach John Turner stated it was a fight to survive the onslaught and his players kept their composure, even though sometimes they were riding their luck.

Mitch d'Avray from Perth pointed out that his team paid the price for allowing the home side to come at them in the beginning, not taking them too seriously. He praised the spirit of the Wolves and wished them luck in their future matches. The Perth coach was satisfied with the number of chances being created by his team however not happy with the many missed scor-

ing opportunities.

Going through the time table the game started under wet conditions with a "bang" - the Wolves taking the lead in the early minutes when it never looked like a goal-scoring chance and the keeper completely missing the long range shot coming in low pushing the ball into the net with his own hands, a gift for the home team.

From then on Perth completely dominated and had that many chances, one only could wonder how long it would take them to score. The ball went flashing past Andrew Crews goal that often it had to come eventually for Perth to hit the target but never did. Desperate defence kept them out.

Perth striker Tom



Wolves Nigerian import Chima Nwagazi shown being marked closely by Glory's Mark Byrnes in Wollongong's two-one upset over last years Champions.

Pondeljak sliced the ball just wide across the goal twice and again touching the upright, the pressure was relentless on the Wolves defence but they did not crack.

In the second half against the run of play clever play by captain Stuart Young freed his fellow striker to score the second one.

The Wolves were breathing hard but survived and the spare crowd cheered them on wildly. A tremendous result beating the two leading sides on two weekends, one have to praise the energy and fitness installed by their coach.

Former favourite son of Wollongong and now with Perth Matt Horsley had to come off in the first half after sustaining a heavy tackle injuring his knee, reports have stated that Horsley is still recovering but will have to wait for x-rays in Perth.

In the end the experts were more astonished then surprised, nobody could forecast a result like this.



South Melbourne

2



Adelaide United

1

By Alan Clark

South Melbourne rose to second in the ladder with a two-one win over league newcomers Adelaide United at a wet and windy Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday evening.

Adelaide had deserved at least a draw, and could reasonably claim its endeavour warranted all three points on offer. However, South's win came through the unlikely source of giant central defender Ante Kovacevic who scored a double - the first time he has ever done so.

"It's (something) defenders cherish," said Kovacevic after the game.

"I don't think I'd scored for about three years," he said. "So I was pretty happy with the first. And to get the second - I just couldn't believe it. It put us up two-nil, and I thought that should be enough to win the game."

Carl Veart scored Adelaide United's solitary reply despite having the better of the larger period in the match.

"Sometimes it is just about getting a result, and this was one of those games

where just getting a result was more important than anything," said relieved South Melbourne coach Stuart Munro after the game. "I didn't think the performance was great, but at times we were put under the cosh."

"We were fantastic (in) the first twenty minutes," he said.

Midway through the first half, South Melbourne took the lead from the most unlikely of sources. Central defender Kovacevic managed to score with a looping header after a South corner was insufficiently dealt with by the under-seige Adelaide United defence. A half-clearance from Boutsianis' corner was snapped up by Marcus Stergiopoulos who crossed in Kovacevic's direction.

The goal had come against the balance of play, with Adelaide United taking the game up to South. South had the advantage of a strong tail-wind and launched long balls from deep positions for the speedy Michael Curcija.

Curcija had broken one offside trap to send in a left-foot shot which went wide, but the possession



South Melbourne's Steve Laurie puts his elbow towards Adelaide's striker Carl Veart's head during their clash at Bob Jane Stadium last week.

was mostly with the visitors.

There were some shaky moments in the South back four as Ross Aloisi, Carl Veart, and Shane Smeltz kept up the pressure. It seemed to be only a matter of time before Adelaide United would break through.

Adelaide United continued to look the stronger side in the second-half, and man-of-the-match Aurelio Vidmar deserved to level when Veart cleverly set him up with a back-heel. However Vidmar's shot on the turn crashed into the post and away, with South

goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic well beaten that Kovacevic scored once for South was a surprise. When he scored the second, it was astonishing. Once again its damaging genesis was a corner from Boutsianis, this time struck long past the far-post where Curcija headed it back into the crush of the six-yard box. Kovacevic stooped low to head it into the net.

Adelaide continued to press despite the driving rain that arrived and sent the crowd in the outer scattering for shelter, and deservedly pulled one back when Veart followed up a

ball sent in by Smeltz and converted close in to Galekovic.

As the rain continued to pelt down, Kosmina continued to urge his team, and brought on reinforcements to the attack in his attempt to gain justice from the game.

"We probably could have been a bit more aware in and around the box," said Kosmina. "You can pick little things like that (to criticise) all day long. The fact is that over all, we played some fantastic football."



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P.O. BOX 124 BELMORE NSW 2192

BYE - MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

WOLVES NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves in High Spirit -

Talking to club coach John Turner the boys are running "riot" in training. They know their limitations which can be improved showing plenty of "heart" instead.

Nobody expect them to win against the odds, the occasional upset, yes. The effort is tremendous, the mood optimistic, the points need to be fought for with applying their high spirit to every match.

It must be rubbing on to the fans - those who gave them away - expected to give the battling team a fair go. With increased support the team will succeed and lift themselves higher up on the table.

Civic Reception for Young Wolves -

Wollongong Lord Mayor Alex Darling hosted representatives of the Wolves youth grade recently.

The Lord Mayor is now a patron of the team and will follow their European trip next year, representing the club and City of Wollongong at the FIFA approved St. Joseph's soccer tournament in St. Etienne, France. Soccer clubs from all over the globe take part like Wolverhampton Wanderers, UK, Boavista, Spain plus a number of European top clubs youth teams.

Two newly recruited Illawarra players are Lance Barrie (Corrimal) and Reuben Zadcovich (Bulli).

Players will be raising money to pay for the trip over the next few month.

Next winter season the Wolves are running an U/18's team with coach Steve Lettace. These players will eventual qualify for the Wolves U/20's youth grade team.

Sport Threatened by Politicians -

Soccer clubs, local and state-wide, plus other football codes at grass-root level are under threat to lose live-saving sponsorship.

Juniors and seniors alike could find themselves unable to play their preferred sport when sports organizations have to shut down if local leagues - Workers-, RSL - and or Bowling Clubs are forced to cut out their community support due to politicians imposing heavy taxes on their revenue generated normally distributed to community groups depending on their support.

Soccer clubs should rally their followers and committees to lobby local politicians to oppose this extra government tax. Lean on NSW State members of all party directions and force them to talk to Mr. Carr and his unreasonable treasurer.

Remember being passive will eventually force your soccer club - juniors or seniors - out of existence. Kick-start the action now to convince your local MP to help the community for once instead of sitting on the fence. Bombard them with letters and faxes or emails.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004 NORTHERN DIVISION ROUND 8

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	8	6	1	2	1	29	14	19
AIS	6	5	1	2	0	18	4	16
Parramatta Power	8	5	0	1	3	22	12	15
Marconi Stallions	10	4	2	0	4	16	16	14
Wollongong Wolves	6	4	0	2	2	9	9	12
Brisbane Strikers	8	4	0	2	4	13	14	12
* Northern Spirit	8	3	2	2	3	7	9	11
* Sydney United	8	3	0	1	5	15	19	9
Newcastle United	8	2	2	0	4	11	11	8
QAS	7	2	1	2	4	14	16	7
Sydney Olympic	7	2	1	1	4	10	15	7
ACTAS	6	0	0	1	6	2	27	0

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2003

ACTAS0	QAS4
	(King 5', Hagell 14' 40' 55')
Newcastle United2	Sydney Olympic3
	(Erich 17', R. Cardozo 25', Papadopoulos 32')

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2003

Brisbane Strikers1	Parramatta Power4
(Goalscorer information unavailable as Team Sheets have not yet been provided by Brisbane Strikers)	
AIS4	Marconi Stallions0
	(Ward 5', Cieski 25' 43', Tadros 90')

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2003

* Northern Spirit v Sydney United	
*(Match not permitted to proceed by local council)	
DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 3 -	
To be played on Sunday 23 November 2003	
Canberra Deakin5	QAS2
(Goalscorer information unavailable as Team Sheets have not yet been provided by Canberra Deakin)	
BYE - Canberra Deakin	
BYE - Wollongong Wolves	

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2003-2004

NORTHERN DIVISION FIXTURES - ROUND 11

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2003

ACTAS Vs AIS
Time: 5.00pm
Venue: Hawker Oval
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2003
Parramatta Power Vs Northern Spirit
Time: 4.10pm
Venue: Parramatta Stadium
Brisbane Strikers Vs Canberra Deakin
Time: 4.35pm
Venue: Perry Park

QAS Vs Wollongong Wolves

Time: 5.00pm
Venue: Richlands Stadium
SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2003
Sydney United Vs Marconi Stallions
Time: 4.00pm
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre
DEFERRED MATCH FROM RD 9 -
To be played on Saturday 29 November 2003
Sydney Olympic Vs AIS
Time: 4.00pm
Venue: OKI Jubilee Stadium

NYL TOP SCORERS

Canberra Deakin7	Cattanach Robbie
Parramatta Power6	Bridge Mark
Newcastle United4	Boogaard Nigel
A.I.S4	Cieski Billy
A.I.S4	Deegan Mathew
Q.A.S4	Grossman Chris
Canberra Deakin4	Menser Matthew
Marconi Stallions4	Severino Daniel

SOCCERWOMAN by Janene Mar

WNSL 2003/04 - ROUND SIX

Queensland Sting have pushed ahead of rivals NSW Sapphires for the first time this season to claim first position on the WNSL ladder after the weekend's Round Six action, care of a one-goal better goal difference with the pair still level on points.

STING COME FROM BEHIND TO TROUNCE SENSATION

QUEENSLAND STING 8 (Kate McShea 9m, April Mann 39m, 52m, Belinda Dawney 42m, 45m, Alannah Reed 76m, 90m, Jessica Mitchell 89m) defeated ADELAIDE SENSATION 2 (Lisa De Vanna 13m, 16m) at ANZ Stadium, Brisbane

On Saturday evening in Brisbane, Queensland Sting came from behind to record a remarkable 8-2 victory over Adelaide Sensation. The 'maroons' found themselves 2-1 behind inside the opening 16 minutes but later ran away with six unanswered goals to dispel any thoughts of an upset.

Captain Kate McShea opened the Queensland account in the 9th minute of play, a cross ricocheting into her path and she chipped over the outcoming goalkeeper. Adelaide replied with a beautiful goal from Lisa De Vanna four minutes later, waltzing past a defender and rounding the keeper before slotting home.

De Vanna weaved her magic again three minutes on with a similar effort to take the 2-1 lead. A miscued clearance by the keep-

er almost saw Adelaide's Stacey Stocco increase the advantage in the 36th minute.

Shortly after Queensland levelled when April Mann ran on to a Belinda Dawney ball and dribbled past the keeper. Three minutes later Dawney was the scorer, a cross from the right releasing her behind the defence. Dawney took Sting's lead to 4-2 just before the break, chipping the keeper.

An Adelaide ball in the back of the net within a minute of the restart would have made for an enthralling second period, but Christina Papageorgiou's neat effort was ruled offside.

A De Vanna one-on-one with the keeper was sent wide shortly after and was the visitors' last real chance as Queensland took over proceedings.

Mann scored her second in the 52nd minute, taking advantage of a mix-up in the defence.

Despite numerous changes, the goalscoring didn't let up, substitutes scoring the next three goals. Alannah Reed scored her first ever WNSL goal, racing in for a well-struck drive in the 76th minute.

Jessica Mitchell scored with a minute remaining, running on to an Ellen Beaumont pass and rounding the keeper. Reed scored again in the last minute, thumping home an inviting McShea cross.

Sting - Kitching, Garven, Reuter, Grant, Canham (Beaumont 60), Duus (Reed 73), McShea, Ferguson, Harch (Walker 76), Mann (Carroll 73), Dawney (Mitchell 54).

Sensation - Wirkus, Alagich, Day, Shigrov, May, Spagnoletti, Walsh (Burgess 63), Stocco (Gubbins 88), Slater (Wilson 68), Papageorgiou (Balomenos 56), De Vanna.

MISSED PENALTY HAUNTS ECLIPSE

VICTORIA VISION 0 drew with CANBERRA ECLIPSE 0 at Bulleen Soccer Club, Melbourne

Saturday afternoon in Melbourne, Victoria Vision and Canberra Eclipse played out another 0-0 draw, a repeat of their result in the opening round of the season. It is only the sixth ever scoreless draw in the eight seasons of the WNSL, and the third consecutive time these two teams have recorded that scoreline in Melbourne.

Canberra Eclipse, suffering a horrendous inability to score goals, were further haunted with a missed penalty kick during a second half where they controlled the majority of the play and showed good attacking spirit following a more subdued first half. Victoria Vision had the more positive of the play in the first half but were unable to break through on the only defence they have yet to score against this season.

On the half-hour, a Canberra through-ball caused a scramble in the box but when the goalkeeper spilt the ball, Eclipse were unable to find the target. Amy Chapman's header ten minutes later was saved well by Victorian keeper Melissa Barbieri.

Eclipse came out firing in a second half during which the rain tumbled down heavily and play became quite physical as frustrations rose. Four minutes in, substitute Caitlin Munoz was released with a great through ball but a fantastic one-handed save by Barbieri stopped a certain goal. Jenna Maciejewski was next to be thwarted by Barbieri, shortly before the drama of the

penalty incident in the 55th minute when Ellie Brush was brought down in the box. Tal Karp stepped up for the spot kick but sent it wide of the right post.

Vision - Barbieri, Digiammarco (Pfeiffer 87), Smith, McEvoy, Lamb, Jackson, Bisby,

Groenewald (Totsidis 69), Angelucci, Terek, Pannella.

Eclipse - Hartley, Davies, C Maciejewski, Somi, Taylor, Chapman, Heppertlin, Karp, J Maciejewski, Frewin (Munoz 46), Brush (Wilson 85).

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
QUEENSLAND STING	6	5	1	-	24	6	18	16
NSW SAPPHIRES	6	5	1	-	20	3	17	16
VICTORIA VISION	6	1	3	2	8	14	-6	6
ADELAIDE SENSATION	6	2	-	4	9	16	-7	6
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	6	1	2	3	2	5	-3	5
NORTHERN NSW PRIDE	6	-	1	5	8	27	-19	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2003/04

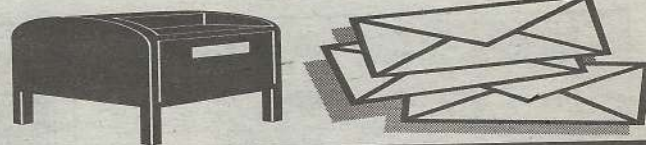
7	Belinda DAWNEY	Queensland Sting
6	Catherine CANNULI	NSW Sapphires
6	Jessica MITCHELL	Queensland Sting
4	Belinda PANNELLA	Victoria Vision
4	Michelle CARNEY	NSW Sapphires
4	Lisa DE VANNA	Adelaide Sensation
4	Kylie LEDBROOK	NSW Sapphires

NEXT ROUND - ROUND FIVE

Friday 28 November		
Canberra Eclipse vs NSW Sapphires	6.00pm	Belconnen Soccer Centre
Friday 28 November		
Victoria Vision vs Queensland Sting	4.00pm	Belconnen Soccer Centre
Friday 28 November		
Adelaide Sensation v Northern NSW Pride	2.00pm	Belconnen Soccer Centre

NOTE: More information on the NSW Sapphires' three-nil win over Northern NSW read on Page 24 in ABSW's 8-page NSW section.

Letters & Giveaways



FIFA 2004 WINNERS

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much to all readers who took part in the FIFA 2004 Challenge. The answer to the question of who won the 2002 Champions League final was of course Serie A giants AC Milan.

The 6 Winners are of the P2 and PC copy of FIFA 2004 is as follows:

Michael Nesci - Yagoona (NSW) - PC
Scott Ashbury - Collingwood (VIC) - PC
Ivan Zilic - Brunswick (VIC) - PC
Peter Guirrieri - Georges Hall (NSW) - P2
Sam Dos Santos - Kiama (NSW) - P2
Andrew Kitson - Oaklands Park (SA) - P2

Your prizes will be sent out to you this week - enjoy the game and remember EA SPORTS - ITS IN THE GAME.

FIFA 2004 is out in all good computer and entertainment stores and is available on the PC, P2 and X-Box systems.

SUMMER V WINTER?

Dear Sir,

The issue of summer versus winter for Australian soccer seems to me to be a dead issue.

Changing back to winter makes no sense whatsoever, in my humble opinion.

Consider all the sports that soccer has to compete with. Rugby league, union, AFL, tennis, golf. The winter months is the time when everything else is happening in the world of sport. Soccer struggles for coverage as it is now, so why go back to winter?

I think if the new soccer authorities have their minds set on the job of improving the fortunes of this marvelous game, then summer simply has to be the way to go. These months coincide with the football seasons around the world, and having a stabilised timetable for the season will assist once

FIFA arrange the calendar year when it comes to international fixtures.

In summer there is beautiful weather and few other sports, bar the cricket and the Australian Open tennis, to compete with. Fears about player safety in the heat can be eased by moving kick off times to later in the evening.

Please, lets not go back to the dark ages of soccer, both literally and metaphorically.

Ryan Govers.
Turramurra, NSW.

HESKEY OVER-RATED

Dear Sir,

Can someone please explain to me why Sven Goran Eriksson continues to persist with Emile Heskey in the England team?

I wish people would stop being fooled by the promise that he may have shown at Leicester. His record at Liverpool has been quite poor, and yet he has constantly been pushed ahead of the more consistent goalscorers

such as James Beattie and Alan Smith, even while he sits on the bench at Anfield.

The injury to Milan Baros and the equally poor goalscoring form of El Hadji Diouf has helped keep his place in attack alongside Michael Owen, who contributes almost all of the goals in their partnership.

England need a player up front to take the pressure off Beckham and Owen.

Heskey is not the man!

David Allbright.
Altona, VIC.

STAY IN THE NSL THEN JET-SET

Dear Sir,

I totally agree with plans to keep young talented players in Australia for at least two years before they venture overseas.

By putting in place a national selection policy for youth tournaments, whereby only home based players can participate, is an excellent idea for the good of youth development in Australia.

I realise that the offers made by overseas clubs are often too tempting to refuse, but I honestly believe that the time these kids spend in the NSL will benefit them in the long run. It is so much better to crack into the European market with a few years of regular top flight football under their belts, rather than being rushed into trials as an 18 year old with no knowledge of the outside world.

Having NSL based national youth teams will help the marketability of the competition and restore some pride in our domestic product.

James Zeitoun.
Birrongo, NSW.

BEWARE OF THE MINNOWS

Dear Sir,

The Rugby World Cup, which has taken the interest of Australia's sporting public during the past month, has proved to me how predictable the sport is in terms of elite competition.

I see it as a parochial past time that has nowhere near the emotional capacity of soccer, the real football. How can one judge the merits of a 'World Cup' when the main participants are those nations that belong to, or once belonged to the Commonwealth. Same goes for cricket and rugby league?

The quarter finalists all came from the two major rugby tournaments, the Tri Nations and the Six Nations. And who would have bet against the semi finalists that we have had?

Soccer is by far the global game, where even minnows are capable of springing a surprise. The success of Turkey, South Korea and Senegal in 2002 should encourage Australians to get behind soccer at a time when it is crying out for support.

Miles O'Rourke.
Perth, WA



The Lions - 2003 Champions of Queensland

133 Pine Road, Richlands. QLD

Phone: (07) 3271 3636 • Fax: (07) 3271 3804



By Paul Schiavo

SUPER SUMMER LEAGUE RD 4

**SOUTH WEST QLD 1
QLD LIONS 7 HT 1-2
(GILCHRIST 3, SELBY, PARK,
RODDEN, DYER)**

Round 4 of the SSL saw Lions face the daunting task of an away trip to Toowoomba to face a South West Qld side ready to cause an upset.

After defeating the Suns last week in an impressive performance, coach Gary Johnson knew that this week's trek up the range would be a whole new ball game, given the fact that the squad had been hit by a number of injuries and suspensions.

South West coach Dave Nugent was banking on the fact that Lions' sides have always struggled against teams from Toowoomba, be it from the long drive or the

fact that the west Qld side, always the underdog, lift for the occasion.

Both sides took a while to settle down and the opening exchanges lacked any real purpose. Then out of nowhere, the country-side took the lead.

In the 12th minute, Lion's midfielder, Ben Lynch seemed to have a long clearance covered, however his mistimed headed caught the defense square and fell into the path of a SW forward who slotted the ball past Griffin McMaster for the opening goal.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 0

This was just the start that coach Nugent was looking for but as it turned out, this only made the Lions more determined and the game as a contest was over just after half time.

Lions lifted their intensity and had a number of chances to equalize. Most of these chances came after good work on the right by overlapping full back, Carl Barker. Twice he sent in telling crosses into the SW area

that should have had better rewards, the best chance falling to Brendan Voss whose first time effort went just wide of the target.

In the 33rd minute Lions were awarded a free kick to the right of the SW area. James Rodden swung in the cross and SW keeper Nicholas Bartsch made a fine stop after the ball was deflected towards goal by a Lion's attacker.

In the 36th minute, great work by Yiannis Symons turned what looked like a goal kick into a corner. From the restart, James Rodden's cross found the head of Jayce Gilchrist on the edge of the six-yard box but his goal bound header was blocked by a defender.

Only four minutes later, the Lions' pressure finally paid dividends.

Jayce Gilchrist received the ball just inside the SW half. He took on his marker and from 20 metres hit a curling right foot strike that gave Bartsch in goals no chance.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 1

Before SW could recover from conceding the late goal, Lions managed a second.

In almost a carbon copy of the opening goal, Jayce Gilchrist once again turned his defender and this time from even further out, curled his effort high into the top left hand corner, again giving Bartsch no chance.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 2

South West needed to find something before half time to reply to the quick Lion's goals but the closest they came was from a strike by Robert Davey that went wide of the right hand upright.

In fact Lions had a number of opportunities to increase their lead before the end of the half.

In the 42nd minute, James Rodden combined with Andrew Park to send Gilchrist in on goals but his left foot strike went wide of the target.

A minute later, Gilchrist found himself with space on the right, took on his marker and drove into the area, but his shot was well saved by Bartsch.

On the stroke of half time, from a

Gilchrist long throw, Josh Chelepy just failed to connect as the ball raced across the six-yard box.

HALF-TIME

SOUTH WEST QLD 1 QLD LIONS 2

Half time couldn't come quickly enough for the SW outfit as they had been under enormous pressure from the time that they had taken the lead early on in the half. However, it was Lions that started the second half where they had left off the first.

Only two minutes had elapsed when Andrew Park shot wide after a long throw by Gilchrist. A minute later Josh Chelepy put Gilchrist in on goals but Bartsch saved at the striker's feet. In the 48th minute Lions were awarded a corner after good work between Josh Chelepy and Park put Gilchrist in on goals but his strike was cleared by a defender. Chelepy's seemingly miss hit corner went across the six-yard box to an unmarked Gilchrist on the back post for the easiest of tap-ins to complete his hat trick.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 3

South West needed to be the first scorers after half time and the country boy's heads dropped visibly after Gilchrist's strike that gave Lions the two-goal cushion.

In the 50th minute, Yiannis Symons took on his defender on the right, cut in and his shot on goals from the edge of the area only just went wide of the right hand upright.

With Lions facing little resistance it was inevitable that there were more goals to be scored.

In the 67th minute, Ben Lynch won the ball in the middle of the park and fed David Selby on the right. Selby turned on his left and struck his shot into the top right hand corner again giving keeper Bartsch no chance.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 4

Not long after, Lions were in again. David Selby committed two defenders before laying the ball into the path of Mark Dyer on the edge of the area, who had little trouble beating Bartsch.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 5

Lions had further chances to increase their lead with the best chance falling to Jayce Gilchrist from a James Rodden corner. Rodden's corner was swung in from the right and fell to the feet of Gilchrist only metres from goal but Gilchrist somehow managed to send the ball over the crossbar.

In the 88th minute, Lions were awarded a free kick after a late challenge on Brendan Voss some 30 metres from goal. James Rodden, who had been striking the ball well all day, blasted his shot around the wall and into the roof of the net.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 6

Lions hadn't finished the scoring yet and in the 90th minute, they had their seventh. SW keeper Bartsch tried to find his fullback on the right. His miss directed throw hit Andrew Park and he had little trouble finding the target for a well-deserved goal.

South West Qld 1 Qld Lions 7

The match ended with SW having their best chance of the half, when a cross from the left was met by Luke Feddema, whose header just shaved the right hand upright.

FULL TIME

SOUTH WEST QLD 1 QLD LIONS 7

Coach Gary Johnson was pleased with his team's effort.

"Because of the number of boys unable to play for whatever reason, I was forced to put out a makeshift side particularly at the back. Travis Reimers was drafted in at full back and did a very good job in a position that he was not accustomed to playing. Andrew Park was my player of the match and his goal was fully deserved."

"We thought that South West would come at us early and we had to be patient. Their goal was probably the best thing to happen to us as it knocked us out of our complacency and made us lift our intensity. In the end we were comfortable winners thanks to a good all round performance."

SUMMER LEAGUE 2003

Group 1 Round: 4

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
1 Palm Beach Sharks	4	3	0	1	9	4	5	10
2 Queensland Lions	4	3	1	0	14	5	9	9
3 North Coast Suns	4	3	1	0	8	4	4	9
4 Rockdale Rovers	4	2	1	1	9	6	3	7
5 Redlands United	4	0	4	0	7	16	-9	0
6 South West Qld	4	0	4	0	4	16	-12	0

Results for Round 4

North Coast Suns	4	Redlands United	2
Palm Beach Sharks	1	Rockdale Rovers	1
Queensland Lions	7	South West Qld	1

Group 2 Round: 3

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Diff.	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast Hawks	4	3	1	0	8	3	5	9
2 Wynnum Wolves	4	2	2	0	8	7	1	6
3 North Star	4	2	2	0	5	7	-2	6
4 Pine Rivers United	4	2	2	0	6	10	-4	6
5 Easts Tigers	4	1	2	1	7	6	1	4
6 Peninsula Power	4	1	2	1	5	6	-1	4

Results for Round 4

North Star	1	Easts Tigers	0
Pine Rivers United	2	Wynnum Wolves	1
Sunshine Coast Hawks	3	Peninsula Power	0

PREMIERSHIP BIZARRIO

It's Nige and Derek here, from BananaTV's Premiership Bizarrio. Each week we give you all the news and our views from around the grounds of the English Premier League.

The FA has gone nuts again this week. Their victim this time is Leeds Utd bottle chucker, nutter Alan Smith. Jubilant Smithy trekked across the Pennines to the England team camp after getting a last minute call up as cover for the injured Daruis Vassel. 4 hrs later, Smithy was going back to where he came from, as an investigation was announced into the bottle lobbing incident. New FA gaffer and clean up evangelist, Mark Palios, got hot under the collar and gave Smith the hook. In comes England shop steward and so-called professional footballer, Gary Neville, once again threatening a walk out on the eve of the friendly with Denmark. FA chief, Palios has had to explain a few gaffs related to the Smith debacle. He has admitted to 3 amazing blunders and we wonder if he has any idea what is going on in his organisation, or the football world. Here are the blunders:

Blunder #1- He admitted that Nicky Butt would have got the axe if he knew he was on bail.

Blunder #2- He did not know that Jimbo Beattie had been called into the squad and was unaware that Jimbo had been a naughty

boozier and was serving a drink drive ban.

Blunder #3- He admitted that he had no idea that Alan Smith had been arrested.

Unbelievable stuff! Palios must have been the only adult in the country that didn't know #3. We can't wait until the next time he axes a player from the squad and we will be rolling around the floor laughing our guts sore when he fronts up with the next batch of botch ups. Smith has since been cleared of all charges.

This is the 2nd time in history that a strike has been threatened and, as we know, the first was only a month ago when Neville led from the front when Palios hooked Rio for forgetting to pee in a bottle. But as we know now, Rio was more interested in getting his leg over with one of his 3 bits of totty on the side. We reckon Neville should give up his day job and devote himself full time to the trade union cause. His record thus far has been exemplary if you enjoy a life on the picket line.

All this off-field action did wonders for the confidence of the England manager and defence. Steve Eriksson was obviously emotionally distraught by the whole incident as he picked Emile Heskey again. The England defence went missing in action on 3 occasions giving Denmark only their 3rd victory in history over the Mighty Old Blighty. On the positive side, there really wasn't any.

Solar panel domed keeper, Fabienne Barthez has got himself a new football advisor. Nothing wrong with that, we hear you say. That's very true, until we tell you that the advisor is nite club crawling boozier and wife cheating Oliver Kahn. He had advised Bart that he should get out of ManU ASAP. Great advice Ollie, what do you think he has been trying to do for the last few weeks, when trying to set up a loan deal with Marseille only to have it vetoed by UEFA? Give yourself an uppercut Ollie and unlike Gary Neville, don't give up your day job.

Banana TV



Premiership Bizarrio

The Ars are making moves in the transfer market ahead of the transfer window opening in January. Rumour has it that they are poised to make a bid of 8 million squids for West Ham flyer, Jermaine Defoe. 50 mil in debt, it has been stated by The Arses board that they have a transfer kitty the size of my

bank account. Can't see them getting Defoe for 20 bucks.

We would like to make a special mention for McBertie Vogts and his band of tartan brothers. They did extremely well defeating the might of the Dutch 1-0 at Hampden Park. The crowd really responded to McBertie's rallying cry for the old firm fans to stop slagging each other off and get behind their country. Considering they have just lost the return tie in Holland 6-2 I suppose there isn't much else to do except get stuck into your rivals as the football would make you wanna top yourself. Go the sweaties!

And finally, a special mention for the Welsh. Even though Giggsy is Nige's fav player he should have dumped his passport and played for England. After a stellar effort getting a 0-0 draw in Russia, a choke was definitely on the cards. Once again, we proved that we are the pundits that know the game and predicted a 1-0 win to Russia on last week's show. 43 years since they last qualified for a major competition and we can't see them doing it for another 43 years.

There endith another week of Bizarrio in the Premiership. Tune your computer in each week to www.bananatv.com for all the latest bollocks.

See you here next week!

Nige & Derek
Premiership Bizarrio

FUTSAL WORLD CUP FOR AUSSIES

Futsal Australia's national mens side is participating in the 8th AMF (World Futsal Association) World Cup being held in Asuncion, Paraguay which begins on Friday, 21 November 2003.

Australia will open the competition in its Group A match against Belgium.

Kick-off is 9:00pm local time (Saturday 11:00am AEDT).

Captain/coach and former Sydney Olympic player, Leo Carle is confident that Australia can beat Belgium in their opening match, which will set up Australia's path to qualifying for the second round.

Carle said, "No other Australian Futsal side has ever won a match at a World Cup. I hope to create history by advancing to the second stage of the tournament."

Australia is part of Group A which comprises of:

- *Belgium
- *Peru
- *Paraguay

The Australian Futsal

Squad:

Leo Carle
David Petrovic
Zlatko Joseski
Vincenzo Timpano
Rodrigo Pena
Johnny Ghiso
Vedran Maric
Daniel Mezzasalma
Lucas Flynn
Nicole Maslinkoski
Jason Craus
Ray Janes (Manager)

Victorian Chronicles



By Brendon Davis

MEMO TO STEVE HORVAT

Last week the Knights announced the formation of a task force to review "all facets of their operation" to ensure they meet the necessary criteria for admission into the reformed National league. Former star player Steve Horvat is chairing this committee of review. This is my memo to him

To: Steve Horvat
From: Brendon Davis - ABSW

Dear Steve,
You were a great footballer both at the Knights and nationally with the Socceroos. You are one of the true gentlemen of the NSL, you've earned the respect of your club, country and unusually, the opposition fans and the wider NSL administration.

You operate a successful small business and are a proud family man. So it comes as quite a surprise you accepted the poisoned chalice as chair of the Knights task force.

A poisoned chalice cause you will be blamed if the Knights are omitted from the league but oth-

ers will almost certainly claim the credit if you are successful.

Lets face it Steve, as it stands the Knights are gone, they are one club who are so far short of meeting any entrance criteria. Their playing budget is the smallest in the NSL, the ground and facilities are uninviting, your home game attendances are poor and your level of corporate support is nominal.

The press release announcing your appointment says everything is up for review - every facet of the Knights operation is negotiable. Really Steve, the board should not need to commission another review, this review process should have been ongoing so this is an admission by the management that they don't know what is needed.

Sad really because the Knights are a great club, they have been one of the most successful clubs in the NSL, they have produced as many international stars as any other club yet the organisation is in disarray.

YOUR GROUND is simply not up to it. It may be located close to the heart of the local Croatian community, but it's a cold, uninviting, poorly resourced and poorly located facility. It has inadequate seating, non-existent corporate facilities, poor media facilities and poor parking. And for television its unacceptable.

So Steve, you should suggest the club sell the asset using the proceeds to capitalise the new club.

Consider relocating to Geelong. This would give you a catchment area covering the whole of Western Victoria, you could share Kardinia Park (Shell Stadium) with Geelong AFL Club. And Geelong has a significant Croatian Community which

could provide a significant support base, but you must, you simply have to appeal to the wider sporting community.

And locating in Geelong will provide the opportunity for you to develop a more substantive sponsorship base across the Western region of Melbourne combined with the industrial business community in Geelong.

Shell Stadium has first class facilities so you won't require much capital expenditure and you should generate a great deal of favourable publicity across the state.

STAFF UP because your board and staff are nice people, great intentions but not necessarily the best business people. In particular get a top notch CEO who can develop a medium term strategy in conjunction with a quality dynamic board. The current General Manager is a competent administrator but you need someone above her who can develop and implement genuine corporate strategy, someone who is experienced in dealing with the NSL, SA, Government and corporate Australia.

Develop sensible job profiles then commission a top personal firm to get you the best possible candidates irrespective of the cost, their ethnicity or religion.

This will make some fans uncomfortable, its moving beyond your comfort zone but is essential for the clubs very existence.

Get the CEO in now, you don't have the luxury of time on your side.

CORPORATE FACILITIES must be a priority. For starters, get on a plane to Perth to inspect the Glorys corporate facilities. South Melbourne sent their whole staff over to inspect this last weekend with Souths

facilities already being quite good compared to the Knights. The go and look at Collingwood and Adelaide Crows (AFL) corporate facilities.

You need to raise many hundreds of thousands of dollars from corporate facilities, and this needs to extend beyond the traditional match day lunch.

The Knights don't generate any money from the corporate hospitality sector right now - it's a major income source being wasted.

MANAGE THE MEDIA so you get some really positive publicity. Sure its been a horror week, the South game was terrible and Nick Waite quitting didn't help. Nor did your fans do you any favours booing the boys off the pitch at half time, nor by leaving in droves at the hour mark on Sunday.

Make sure all publicity is positive, after all this is your 50th anniversary year but no one knows anything of it.

Use the occasion to generate great publicity, use it to make money for the club and use it as a springboard into the new competition.

RAISE MONEY because you have to perform on the park. This will mean buying players when the window opens because nothing breeds success like success.

Fans are fickle, if you want them to turn up, pay their \$15 and support the team, get them something to support.

Pay the boys fairly and provide the quality. You can't afford to waste this season, it could be your last.

IMPROVE THE BOARD which will be difficult. Retain the best of the current directors then add a few non soccer people with extensive business experi-

ence and contacts.

SELL THE CLUB if that's what it takes. It might be 50%, 75% or even 100%. Most of the greatest clubs in the world are privately owned, so there is nothing to be scared of. But private equity needs to be capable of underwriting the club for the long term if its to be considered. The private equity suppliers would need to have deep pockets to be capable of underwriting losses for years if necessary. Otherwise don't consider them.

DON'T DO IT ALL YOURSELF it's a massive job so draw on the best people who ever and where ever they might be. Be sure to secure a diversity of ideas, opinions and options, then test them all before putting them forward. And invite-constructive criticism.

Steve, this is by no means an exhaustive list. You deserve tremendous personal praise for committing yourself to such a difficult task. But I know the last thing on your mind is personal praise.

All football fans wish you well, we hope the Melbourne Knights, by whatever name are part of the national league for another 50 years and we salute you for a distinguished football career on and off the park.

Schaefer's German Dream

The Parramatta Power front office are thrilled with assistant coach Manfred Schaefer's invitation to next month's World Cup draw in Germany.

German-born Schaefer won cult-hero status when with Australia at the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany and returns for next month's draw as Oceania's representative.

Power GM Angelo Travis said, "Manfred has done a lot for the game in this country and it is great to see him recognised in this way. It is a tremendous honour to be part of the draw for the World Cup and Manfred thoroughly deserves the honour. We send him to Germany with our best wishes and hope he enjoys the experience."

Schaefer was in charge for a total of 332 NSL matches with St George, Sydney Olympic, Brunswick, A.P.I.A., Sydney United, Marconi Stallions and West Adelaide from 1977-1999 and has been the assistant coach at Parramatta Power for the last two seasons.

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S O C C E R N O O S

GGArmy T-Shirts arrive soon

A new range of GGArmy T-Shirts will be available before the Olyroos games in January. Keep checking GGARMY.COM for more news and you can own the hottest piece of casual ware this summer...OK that's a bit much, but they're bloody good shirts so log on today.

PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS

Have you got any shots of your crew in action at an Aussie soccer game? Be it the Socceroos, Matildas, whatever. Maybe even some shots from your local club or the NSL. If it's pictures of Australian fans enjoying the world game, we wanna see it. E-mail madmacca@ggarmy.com if you have any pictures you want on the site.

Farewell Mieke

Au revoir to everyone's favourite Sports Update girl, Mieke Buchan, who has departed the Sunday soccer staple TWG. Sundays on the couch won't be the same without Mieke smiling face greeting us with all the latest scores and news. No disrespect to Les, Johnny or Pozz but you just don't have what Mieke has!

Don't sell the F Troop as 'Australia A'

By Mark van Aken

When Australia lost to the Kiwis in the OFC Cup back in July 2002 there was much a do about the loss in Australian soccer circles. Blame for the loss quite rightly wasn't centred at the coach or even the team but rather at the sports board for putting them in such a situation in the first place.

When it became apparent that Frank Farina would have no funds to bring together his full strength squad of international players, he didn't subject himself to the embarrassment of asking Messrs Kewell and Viduka etc to fly home on their holidays at their own cost and play for free. You can argue all day about our Harry Kewell and his commitment to the Green and Gold but not in this instance.

National pride is one thing but Kewell through to Okon to Popovic could not be expected to shell out for their own air fares and then play for meal money. Scott Chipperfield bucked the trend, called the local travel agent and was on the next flight Down Under. He was the only international based Socceroos to join Farina's squad. To add insult to injury for Farina, even some of the Australian based players

invited to camp didn't want to even cross the Tasman for the small dollars on offer. With no preparation and a team bus running on paint fumes the 'Socceroos' headed to the OFC and needed a last minute goal in the Semi Final against Tahiti (that's right Tahiti) to even make the final they would lose 1-0 to a full strength New Zealand in Auckland.

It wasn't exactly new news at the time. In almost identical circumstances four years earlier a similarly selected All-Australian based team suffered the same indignity in the final against New Zealand, this time at home in Brisbane.

While hardly front-page news at home, Britain's top selling soccer monthly 'Four Four Two' featured the victorious Kiwi team on the inside of its front cover. An unusually large amount of media for such an unobtrusive competition from an Anglo stand point. Seems certain people just enjoy a good old Aussie loss. It may be noted that no such full-page coverage was given to the Socceroos when defeating the Three Lions in February, but we digress.

As if being forced to field a so called second rate team isn't bad enough, there are some now calling for such teams to be brought together deliberately.

An 'Australia A' team, much like Cricket Australia brought together for the summer Cricket Series a few years back, would provide the next tier of Australian soccer players the chance to wear the green and gold and compete at international level.

The team would be solely chosen from home based players and play 'B' fixtures, presumably against other lesser countries or stronger nations equivalent second XI's.

From Farina to past stars like Robbie Slater and John Kosmina there has been positive tones through out

the media. Another advantage put forward is that it will give home fans the opportunity to see Australia in action, rather than on TV a few times a year at obscure times.

It has also been said it may serve as a lure to second tier foreign based players home knowing that the

path to the Socceroos is still open playing in Australia, albeit in the second side.

Perhaps a strong, vibrant national league where you can earn a good living and enjoy some sort of public profile would be more likely to achieve this than cheap Socceroos caps. It seems every second player in the NSL is a 'former Socceroo' and this can only serve to cheapen the shirts value even further.

The idea is a fundamentally sound one, except it falls down on one very critical area — an Australian based team isn't even close to being a 'second string'

team. With all due to respect to the players running around in the NSL today, there aren't many that could legitimately get near the Socceroos squad or a genuine 'second team'.

The ones that would be invariably youngsters whose cabs to the International terminal are out the front honking their horns as we go to press. While there are some 150 'Aussies Abroad' not all are necessarily better than the ones running around the Marconi and Bob Jane Stadiums of the country.

Many however are and labelling this type of team as our second best is wider off the mark than Beckam's penalty against Turkey last month.

Below we have compiled a far from comprehensive list of Aussies based OS who may well get a shot at the Green and Gold before any local lads.

There is no doubt some contentious names amongst them. In isolation some local guys like Simon Colosimo may feel that they deserve a nod ahead amongst some on the list however, by and large, it shows that from goal to goal we have a plethora of talent that would make a mockery of calling the NSL version of the Socceroos Australia A or B.

This team would be more appropriately labelled Australia's 'F Troop'.

If the ASA finds it hard organising fixtures with the likes of Moore, Bresciano and Neill in the team, how would it go with our 4th of 5th 'best squad'? Its been said that we are starved of Socceroos games in Oz.

Too true, but I have serious doubt that fielding such a team in leau of the main stars is an acceptable compromise.

It may have worked in the 80's but with respect to the guys in those teams and the players abroad at the time, the difference in the quality and more importantly in this instance the quantity of players is light and day.

While he may not have played a significant role on the pitch, by selecting Steve Horvat from the Melbourne Knights for our last World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay, Farina proved that playing in the NSL doesn't automatically exclude you from the Socceroos.

Australia A was a good and relevant concept in Cricket because it was pitting the next best thing against top level real opposition. Our soccer version would be no such thing.

Outside of soccer die hards, such a concept is unlikely to excite the main stream sporting public or media and as such it seems that it may well be best left as it is; an item of debate.



Keepers	Defenders	Midfielders	Strikers
Didulica	Moore	J Burns	Aloisi
Kalac	Popovic	Cahill	Kewell
Schwarzer	Kisnorbo	Corica	Viduka
Pilan	J Mc Kain	Emerton	Agostino
Juric	I Zelic	R Johnson	Zdrilic
Zois	N Zelic	Lazaridis	Sterjovski
	T Vidmar	P Reid	A Thompson
	Tarka	Tiatto	Holman
	Laybutt	Wilkshire	Garcia
	Foxe	Skoko	Allsopp
	Muscat	Chipperfield	Petrovski
	Neill	Bresciano	Zane
	Milicevic	Grella	J Lucus
	Blatsis	Okon	McDonald
		Wehrman	Griffiths
		S Lovell	
		Maisono Brothers	
		McNicol	
		Culina	
		Invincible	
		C Valeri	

THE WHIRLWIND LIFE OF ZELJKO BABIC



By Daniela Raco

Gifted playmaker ZELJKO BABIC has seen the highs and lows of professional football. Injuries, trials, and "wrong club choices" have hampered the talented striker from achieving greatness on the highly regarded European stage.

He is a family man these days, with his wife and two darling daughters taking up an increasingly important part of his life.

He has had his mettle tested by Europe's best, and is keenly battling it out in our National competition with club side Sydney United. Babic's love of the game is without doubt; it completes him.

PLAYER'S POSITION - Striker

NSL CLUB - Sydney United.

DR: How would you describe yourself as a player?

Quick and eccentric.

DR: From what age have you been playing this great game?

My career has gone full cycle. I started playing at the age of 6 with Canley Heights Cobras. I then played at Marconi juniors Under 9's, then moved on to Sydney Croatia (formally King Tom). I played in reserve grade and progressed to first grade both under the watchful eye of Manfred Schaefer, then Branco Culina. I joined the Marconi ranks at the age of 20 and stayed on for 4 years. I went to Belgium for 1 year (St. Truiden) before returning home because of injury. Next was a stint at Wollongong, before joining current side Sydney United.

DR: Will the squad taste Championship glory this season?

It's an even competition. There's no crash

hot team. It's not out of the question. It's a matter of luck.

DR: What is your most memorable soccer moment?

Playing for Australia against Brazil under Terry Venables then Frank Farina. Also the experience of playing in Belgium.

DR: Can you describe your passion for playing?

I need the game, even if it's to have a kick in the park.

DR: Rate your own soccer skills out of 10.

7/10 - room for improvement.

DR: Is a career overseas still a possibility?

It's a possibility. Depends where. Malaysia possibly. A European move is not realistic. I need a good season of NSL under my belt first.

DR: Is it disappointing to see crowd number dwindling at League clubs, including United?

Of course it is. It doesn't give us inspiration to play. You could mistake it for playing park soccer. Of course you always have your faithful. Overseas you play in front of 20,000 supporters, at home it's 1,500. That's the reality of Australian soccer.

DR: What will it take for Australia to be World Soccer Champions?

A lot of money, and the development of players from a junior level. We need a much-reformed NSL and the money to keep players here.

DR: What league do you rate as the world's best?

Italian League - highly technical. Tactics win a game. It's not hit and run. There are no risks. Some may consider this boring.

DR: If you could play for any team in the world, which one would it be?

AC Milan.

DR: Is there a soccer player that you model your game on?

Local - Ante Milicic
Abroad - Zvonimir Boban

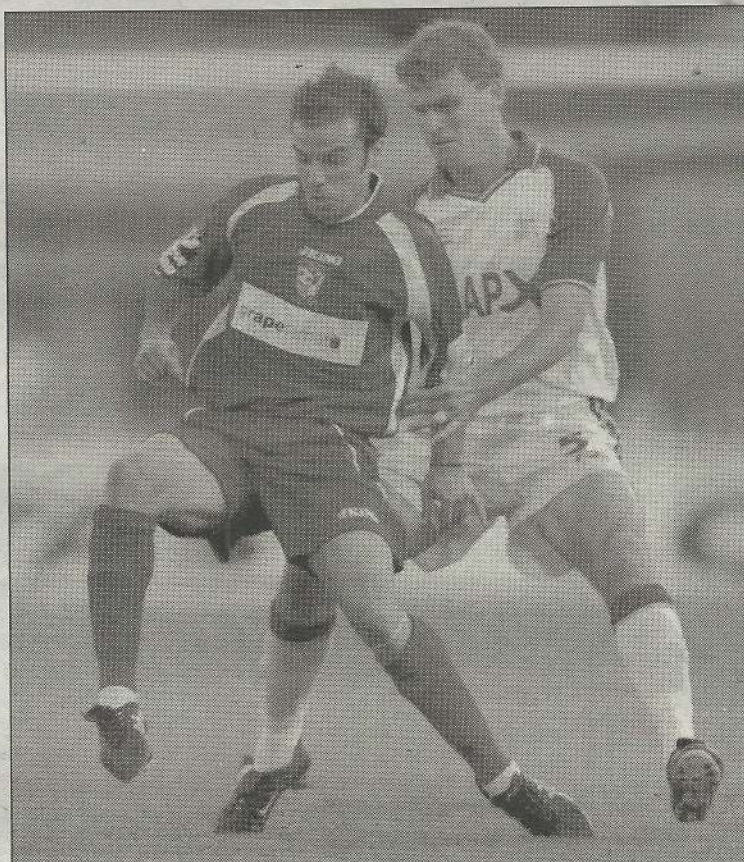
DR: In one word describe Coach Grant Last.

The man? Relaxed
The coach? Talkative

DR: Coach's favourite saying?

"You've gotta move".

DR: Who is the funniest character in the



Zeljko Babic is trying to put his misfortunes behind him and play out a good year with Sydney United.

game today?
Paul Souris.

DR: What do you do in your "downtime"?

Spend it with my family doing normal stuff like having BBQ's.

DR: What is the best (or perhaps worst) excuse you've heard someone use for missing training?

Worst - "My wife had a hair appointment".
Best - "My wife's having a baby".

DR: Any early predictions for season 2003-2004?

Sydney United!

DR: Most admired sportsperson?

Goran Novacevski.

DR: Do you play golf? Handicap?

Two!!! But that's a secret.

DR: Favourite form of exercise?

Walking.

DR: Exercise/drill you hate?

Anything to do with running.

DR: Are you familiar with the "Beep Test"? What is your score?

Twelve.

DR: Sporting dream (non football)?

Basketball player.

DR: Most used appliance?

Sandwich maker.

DR: Must-have power tool?

FESTO cordless.

DR: Who is the last person you would like to be stuck in an elevator with?

Ron Corry.

DR: If you uncorked a genie in a bottle, what would you wish for?

I wouldn't wish for anything because I have everything I want.

DR: What is your favourite late night snack?

Toasted sandwiches, Tim Tams, glass of milk.

DR: Which teammate do you refuse to share a room with?

Damon Collina (the boys know why!).

DR: Which teammate could do with a new wardrobe?

All the boys maintain themselves highly.

DR: Who would you trade places with for a day?

Tiger Woods.

DR: What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

They eat healthy.

DR: What animal (or thing) best describes your personality?

A cute puppy - because I look cute and cuddly, but I can turn nasty.

DR: Best hangover cure?

Fatty foods in the morning, and a slurpy.

DR: Favourite holiday destination?

Fiji.

DR: Do you have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?

I'm "Mr Mom" - nappies, bathing, feeding etc.

DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

Anything and everything.

DR: Worst haircut in the league?

Anthony Doumanis.

DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?

I've been told I can do facial expressions like Jim Carrey.

DR: What is your biggest fear?

Getting eaten by a shark.

DR: If you were a bird, whose head would you poo on and why?

Saddam Hussein, because he's a jerk.

DR: Do you have any bad habits?

On game day I get agitated easily. I'm pretty ordinary to be around.

DR: Can you describe your dance moves in three words?

To the rhythm.

DR: Are you the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

First. I'm in the shower, then straight out. Job's done.

DR: How would you spend your last \$50?

Trying to buy the same genie bottle that I didn't need before.

Whatever Happened to Ardone?

By Daniela Raco

Soccer is a way of life. Life without the game can be tough. It's delving into the unknown. WALTER ARDONE played the game for over a decade, and is now enjoying the mysteries of life on the "outside".

DR: How's life... post retirement?

Not too bad. I miss playing, but life's treating me good.

DR: You played the game for over a decade, was it strange waking up on a Sunday morning with nothing to do?

Once I stopped playing soccer I started a new job, so it wasn't like I had nothing to do. I haven't had a Sunday off to kick back and relax.

DR: Have you mellowed with age?

I have settled down and have a girlfriend now.

DR: When is the last time you laced up the boots and had a kick of the soccer ball?

Two years ago with Geylang United in the S-League. I had a one year contract and was there for six months then quit. I lined up trials in China, but came home for a friends wedding and was involved in a car accident. That put an end to the China talks.

DR: Will we see Walter Ardone grace our fields again?

Money talks!

DR: What is your most memorable soccer moment?

Scoring against Olympic when I was playing for Sydney United - it

was a bomb from 40 meters!

DR: How do you fill your days now?

I work for my old man as a sales representative for a company called "Compass Hospitality Supplies". I also work for "SFX", which is a sports management company where I'm involved in both consulting work and scouting aspiring stars.

DR: Are you keen to get involved at a coaching level?

One day, perhaps the Under 15's-16's elite juniors.

DR: Rate your current-day soccer skills out of 10.

I still have my touch, but I'd probably last only 20 minutes.

DR: Any early prediction for season 2003-2004?

Marconi, led by a great coach in

Jean-Paul de Marigny. He is an infectious character. His positive energy levels will rub off on the team.

Parramatta Power will also do well, because they can afford to buy quality players.

DR: What do you do in your "downtime"?

Chill with my girlfriend and go out to dinners.

DR: Best hangover cure?

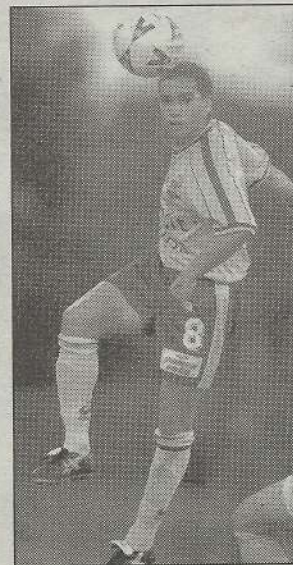
Can of diet coke.

DR: Which famous person have you been told you look like?

When I had long hair, Val Kilmer in the movie "The Doors".

DR: Describe your dance moves.

I'm a bar person, but I have the moves in me.



Walter Ardone shown in his playing days with the Parramatta Power.

DR: What is your favourite late night snack?

Chili chips.

DR: Favourite holiday destination?

Cyprus.

DR: What gourmet cuisines can you whip up in the kitchen?

Tuna sandwiches.

DR: What league do you rate as the world's best?

Spanish League.

DR: What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

All brawn and no brain.

DR: How would you spend your last \$50?

On an "all up" at Randwick Racecourse.

PALUMBO'S VIEW



Tony Palumbo: SBS' expert Italian correspondent discusses his views on the NSL.

Sunday Night Soccer, airing weekly at 10:00 pm on 98.5 FM, took time out with SBS journalist and NSL founder Tony Palumbo to discuss some of the current day NSL issues.

By Joseph Carlucci

SNS - Way back in 1976-77, a three man committee founded the NSL; Frank Lowy, the late Alex Pongrass and a man by the name Tony Palumbo...

(TP). Yes, so called founder. I was representing the NSW Soccer Federation and I was in the executive of the Australian Soccer Federation.

SNS - The NSL has come a long way since 1977 though, now in 2003, it has possibly reached its lowest point. It all started with a grand vision, a National competition for Australian Soccer although now, after 28 years, we have a task-force looking into it all. Does it disappoint you that we need to look into a league that had such an initial vision?

(TP) Well, very early on, there was a lack of division. We had the winter-summer soccer arguments, one-division two division questions raised and so on. This season is probably the lowest step, and we can only go forward from here.

The task-force is well assorted, it was needed, and it remains to be seen what it can achieve because what is lacking is the raw materials, that is the players, seeing so many Australia's finest players are overseas.

SNS - What would you like to see the task-force achieve?

(TP) It is very obvious that the talent in the competition is very limited. Therefore you would have to reduce the number of clubs, possibly ten clubs facing each other three times throughout the season.

Then, it has to be a franchise with someone forking out the money and being responsible for the way the money is spent, as it happens in Europe. In France for example, if a club does not run their accounts properly they will be relegated.

They, the task-force, will probably come-up with a

franchise system, which adds to the uncertainty of the moment as clubs like Parramatta and Marconi are not certain as to whether or not they will still be around next season.

SNS - One major problem with the NSL is the lack of crowd numbers. Parramatta, one of the favourites, possibly the favourite after annihilating Perth 6-0 a few weeks ago, cannot attract more than 1500 people to their home matches.

(TP) This is something that we have experience not only with Parramatta. What has happened, especially under the President-run of David Hill from which we haven't recovered, they have disposed of the ethnic clubs without replacing them with clubs that have some strength in attracting spectators and interest to their matches.

It is interesting to look at Adelaide United's start in the competition, very similar to the Perth Glory. Adelaide attracted more than 14,000 people in their first home matches, it will be interesting to see though whether it will continue.

Quite frankly, I would like to know why only 2,000 people were going to watch Adelaide City and then the name was changed to United, and you suddenly have 14,000 spectators.

Anyway, this is fantastic for Adelaide, and can only be beneficial for soccer in this country. The irony, though, is that the club formed less than two months ago is assured of being in the league next season, whilst the clubs that have been around since the inception of the league are in danger of being denied a spot.

SNS - In general terms, what has gone wrong with the NSL over these twenty-eight years?

(TP) Lack of direction, plus the fact that many officials had at heart more their voting base and voting power than the future of the league. It has been this short-sightedness that has called the situation as we see it today.

SNS - A club from the Italian Community, Marconi, of course yourself being one who works very closely to the Italian community, this year they seem to have returned to the winning track.

Their discipline on-field though has raised many eyebrows. What is your opinion on Marconi's disciplinary situation?

(TP) This lack of discipline, sometimes, is brought about by the opposing team as well. Of course, the (Andrew) Durante incident is a different situation. (Maloney's) tackle was a terrible one, and a tragedy for Durante.

I wouldn't want to read too much into the Marconi disciplinary issue too much though.

SNS - Which team/s do you see as favourite/s, albeit still quite early on in the season, for the title this season?

(TP) Parramatta, against Perth, reached the level of play that everyone was expecting. They are the ones who signed the top players, and demonstrated against Perth that they have well and truly started to gel together.

In saying this though, no-one could have expected Parramatta to dispose of Perth the way they did.

TOBIN ON THE MEND

By Luke Doherty

Northern Spirit stalwart Alex Tobin could be a surprise starter in the next few weeks against various National League clubs, as he attempts to come back from a knee injury that has ruled him out since the opening day of the season.

Tobin made his first appearance for the Spirit first team last Saturday since injuring his knee 8 weeks ago, when the men from the Northern beaches took on Singapore's U/23 side in a training match.

Tobin came on as a substitute late in the second half of the Spirit's 5 nil romp over Singapore's Olympic side and although Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna won't be taking any chances with the defender, Tobin said he is itching to come back.

"It's recovering pretty well. Said Tobin, a veteran of over 500 NSL games.

"It occasionally swells up after a training session or a game but in general it's been very good and I'm hoping to be back on the paddock in the NSL before too long."

If I have a decent training week this week, which I'm expecting to if there are no complications after today then who knows I may be available for this week."

"It's been at least a month and a

few weeks. It's probably the longest spell that I can remember being out injured but I've been fortunate in the past so I can't really complain."

Against Singapore the Spirit looked sharper than they have all year. Adam Kwasnik and Wayne O'Sullivan both grabbed doubles with the fifth goal coming off the boot of a Singapore defender.

If the Spirit win this Sunday, it will break the clubs longest ever win streak of three which they set last season and Tobin said it's been frustrating to miss it the good form of late.

"Yeah it's a little but frustrating that it happened so early in the season but I've got over it hopefully and I'm looking forward to the last half of the season"

"A couple of the losses that we have had we've played well enough to win as well so we could even be a little bit higher."

After a terror start to the season the Spirit are now starting to show there potential. If they beat Sydney United this weekend, they will run into the Parramatta game the week after with a new air of confidence.

"It's very good signs for the rest of the season."

"Last year we started very slowly and ended up with a storm and hopefully we can have that sort of ending to the season with the start that we've had that should sit us comfortably in the top six."

Dobson's Job Safe

Melbourne Knights insist coach Ian Dobson's job is safe, despite his side's 5-0 humiliation at home by South Melbourne in Round 9.

Knights director Tony Juric told the Herald-Sun, "Ian Dobson's job is safe.

"He won't be going anywhere. There'll be players going before he goes.

"The only exception is if he decides to resign himself, but he's already said he intends to tough it out, so he'll be coaching for the rest of the season.

"He drops in at the board meeting every week.

"We spoke to Ian at the start of the year and he knows what he's got to do and what the situ-

ation is."

Juric also defended striker Nick Waite, who was targeted by Knights fans during the South Melbourne clash.

"I feel sorry for Nick because he's been thrown at the deep end, but he may not be ready for this level yet," Juric said.

"He's gone very quickly from State League to Premier League to NSL. He hasn't got the soccer smarts to play at this level as yet.

"Our midfield got annihilated. A couple of our players didn't play tight enough, didn't feed our forwards, didn't touch the ball.

"With a young team like that, you cop a couple of early goals and the heads drop very quickly."



Ian Dobson's position at the Knights is SAFE.



Alex Tobin has recovered well from his knee injury that threatened his career this season.



National Soccer League



After Round 10	TOTAL							PTS	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	BYE	F	A		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A		
PERTH GLORY	9	6	1	2	1	19	13	19	2	2	0	0	4	0	7	4	1	2	15	13		
SOUTH MELBOURNE	9	5	2	2	1	17	4	17	4	3	0	1	8	3	5	2	2	1	9	1		
PARRAMATTA POWER	10	5	2	2	0	22	10	17	4	3	1	0	14	2	5	2	1	2	8	8		
SYDNEY UNITED	9	4	3	2	1	7	4	15	4	2	1	1	5	3	5	2	2	1	2	1		
MARCONI STALLIONS	10	4	3	3	0	12	12	15	6	3	2	1	7	5	4	1	1	2	5	7		
BRISBANE STRIKERS	9	4	2	3	1	11	10	14	4	2	2	0	7	4	5	2	0	3	4	6		
NORTHERN SPIRIT	9	4	0	5	1	16	13	12	5	2	0	3	11	9	4	2	0	2	5	4		
NEWCASTLE UTD	10	3	3	4	1	12	14	12	6	2	2	2	7	6	3	1	1	2	5	8		
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	9	3	2	4	0	7	13	11	5	1	1	3	4	8	4	2	1	1	3	5		
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	9	3	0	6	1	8	16	9	5	2	0	3	5	8	4	1	0	3	3	8		
ADELAIDE UNITED	6	2	2	2	1	6	8	8	3	1	1	1	2	4	3	1	1	1	4	4		
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8	2	1	5	1	6	17	7	4	0	1	3	2	9	4	2	0	2	4	8		
KINGZ	8	1	1	6	1	10	18	4	5	1	0	4	6	11	3	0	1	2	4	7		

NEWCASTLE UNITED0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC1
(Z Caravella 83')

Referee: C. Zetter. Crowd: 1,651. Venue: EnergyAustralia Stadium.

Teams: **NEWCASTLE UNITED:** Perosh, Deans, A Griffiths, Thomas, R Griffiths, Johnson, Mitchell, Blagojevic (Owens 65'), Masi (Wilson 65'), Brown, Middleby.

Subs Not Used: McPherson, Kennedy (gk).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Hughes, Kohler, Juric, Schirripa, Fyfe, Cardozo, Halpin, Augerinos (Bakis 79'), Goutzioulis, Ishida, Caravella.

Subs Not Used: Souris, Karlovic, Moss (gk).

Cautions: S Thomas (NU) 70'.

Red Cards: R Middleby (NU) 79'.

BRISBANE STRIKERS4
(W Moon 34', J Rose 71', 86', L Morley 90')
PARRAMATTA POWER2
(A Milicic 11', F Rech 58')

Referee: Con Diomis. Crowd: 2,148. Venue: Perry Park.

Teams: **BRISBANE STRIKERS:** Higgins, Dodd, Stefanutto, McCloughan, Grierson, Webber, Brownlie (Dreger 90'), Brain, Pilic (Fitzsimmons 83'), Moon (Rose 64'), Morley.

Subs Not Used: Watson (gk).

PARRAMATTA POWER: Bolton, Ceccoli, Beauchamp, Dodd (Pantelis 59'), Gumprecht, Milicic, Rech, Sobczyk (O'Grady 88'), Buonavoglia, Elrich, Zorbas (Thompson 69').

Subs Not Used: Vukovic (gk). Cautions: D Pilic (BS) 35'.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Joshua Rose
(Brisbane Strikers)

The young Brisbane Strikers star came on as a sub in the second half against the Power and bagged two precious goals in their four-two surprising win over highly fancied Parramatta Power last Saturday evening.

Rose's tally went up to three goals for the year and his goals improved the Sunshine Coast sides position on the ladder - it also added further gloom to the Power camp who have lost two straight games.

NORTHERN SPIRIT0
SYDNEY UNITED1
(B Santalab 4')

Referee: Brett Hugo. Crowd: 1,370. Venue: Pittwater Stadium.

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts, O'Sullivan, Spencer, Tomasevic, Ferguson (Baveas 46'), Kwasnik (Fisher 58'), Macallister, Hutchinson, Groves, Osman.

Subs Not Used: Hunter, Page (gk).

SYDNEY UNITED: Reddy, Haliti, Cunico, Vrkic, Huxley, Babic (Heffernan 74'), Collina, B Santalab, Rudan, Doumanis, Filipovic.

Subs Not Used: Parisi, Markovic, Necevski (gk).

Cautions: J Watts (NS) 38', M Osman (NS) 42', M Cunico (SU) 61', M Filipovic (SU) 69'.

Red Cards: M Filipovic (SU) 70'.

KINGZ3
(J Pondeljak 15', 92', D Mori 16', B Despotovski 49')
MARCONI STALLIONS1
(N Carle 86' pen)

Referee: Derek Rugg. Crowd: 1,410. Venue: Ericsson Stadium.

Teams: **KINGZ:** Utting (Nicholson 80'), Midtsian, Tambouras, Jackson (Collins 89'), Burton, Campbell, Ngata (Martin 46'), Rowley, Donoso, Schjerven, Harries.

Subs Not Used: Coombes.

MARCONI: Turnbull, Bell (Webb 70'), Longo (Brodie 57'), Costanzo, Casserly, Last, Gibson (Anabalon 22'), Spiteri, Harris, Carle, Renaud. Subs Not Used: Alogdellis (gk).

Cautions: C Jackson (FK) 86', J Rowley (FK) 89', J Harris (MS) 22', J Spiteri (MS) 67', G Last (MS) 70', A Costanzo (MS) 78', N Carle (MS) 88'.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES2
(S Young 3', C Nwagazi 54')
PERTH GLORY1
(D Mori 69')

Referee: Peter Green. Crowd: 1,879. Venue: WIN Stadium.

Teams: **WOLLONGONG WOLVES:** Crews, Dragas, Timpano (Cummins 46'), Hughes, Hawrysiuk (DeGiovanniello 74'), Lyons, Arrarte, Young, Van Bentum, Blake, Nwagazi (Majurovski 82').

Subs Not Used: Whalan (gk).

PERTH GLORY: Petkovic, Horsley (Faria 36'), Bingley, Hassell (Mrdja 68'), Murphy, Miller, Despotovski, North, Byrnes, Pondeljak, Mori.

Subs Not Used: Coyne, Matassa (gk).

Cautions: M Bingley (PG) 51'.

SOUTH MELBOURNE2
(A Kovacevic 23', 61')
ADELAIDE UNITED1
(C Veart 70')

Referee: Simon Micallef. Crowd: 8,359. Venue: Bob Jane Stadium.

Teams: **SOUTH MELBOURNE:** Galekovic, Osman, Panopoulos, Kovacevic, Trimboli (Sarkies 82'), Boutsianis, Stergiopoulos, Laurie, Curcija (Storey 72'), Poutakidis, Tunbridge.

Subs Not Used: Lohy, Theoklitos (gk).

ADELAIDE UNITED: Bajic, Alagich, Rees, Goulding, Valkanis, Aloisi (Demourtzidis 73'), Veart, Smeltz, Vidmar, Lozanovski (Terminello 66'), Kemp (Pellegrino 89'). Subs Not Used: Scarsella (gk).

Cautions: M Stergiopoulos (SM) 42', M Valkanis (AU) 12', R Aloisi (AU) 26', G Lozanovski (AU) 63', K Rees (AU) 77'.

BYE - MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

ROUND 11

Fri 28-11-03

Adelaide United vs Wollongong Wolves

Newcastle United vs Perth Glory

Sat 29-11-03

Parramatta Power vs Northern Spirit

Brisbane Strikers vs Melbourne Knights

Sun 30-11-03

Sydney United vs Marconi Stallions

South Melbourne vs Football Kingz

Sydney Olympic vs Adelaide United

Sydney Olympic - Bye

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
MILICIC Ante	Parramatta	8
COVENY Vaughan	Sth Melbourne	7
MORI Damian	Perth Glory	7
PELIKAN Anthony	Melb Knights	5
PETRIE Stewart	Northern Spirit	5
DODD Travis	Parramatta Power	5
PONDELJAK TOM	Perth Glory	5



Superstar Profile #7

Name: Da Silva Roberto Carlos
D.O.B: 10/4/73
Nationality: Brazilian
City of Birth: Garca - Brazil
Weight: 67kg
Height: 168cm
Team: Real Madrid

**WATCH
THIS SPACE**

YOUNG SOCCEROOS SPECIAL NEXT WEEK

As part of the Young Socceroos U20 World Cup assault in the UAE at the end of the month ABSW will be running a special double colour page spread on the team squad and head-shots of our future stars.

ABSW will also provide you (the readers) up-to-date information on the Young Roos tough schedule thanks to our friends at ASA.

Can Ange's lads do one better than our best ever effort in '99, Come on the Aussies!!!

'True blue collectables'

Finally Australia has a memorabilia company that specialises in Soccer! **True blue collectables**, a Sydney based company, is proud to announce that it has agreed with Harry Kewell to be his sole and EXCLUSIVE producer of his memorabilia in Australia.

This is fantastic news for Kewell, Liverpool and all Soccer fans as it will guarantee authenticity of Harry's signature to ensure you get what you pay for.

It also assures that you will be receiving a quality product produced using only acid-free matt boards and timber mouldings that live up to Harry Kewell's own high standards.

True blue collectables will be producing a stunning range of items catering for all Soccer fans and as they are the exclusive producer, you can save by buying direct from the manufacturer. You will not be disappointed.



Harry Kewell seen here with 'True blue collectables' Michael Dever.

With Harry now considered one of the top players in the World, it makes his memorabilia a "must have" for the discerning collector and Soccer fanatics.

This year saw Harry transfer from the only club he has known since he was 16 years old to the side he dreamt of as a child, Liverpool.

He also scored in both of Australia's monumental victories versus England and Jamaica, including the

game winner in the latter.

In July 2003, Harry turned down advances and big money offers from Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea to pursue his dream. He now proudly wears the famous red jersey of the most successful Football side in English history, Liverpool.

All of Harry's memorabilia is fully licensed by **True blue collectables** including a Certificate of Authenticity with an image of the signing, as

well as A-Tag authenticity.

A-Tag is a 3rd party organisation that attend all of the signings with Harry and add technology, including microchips and laser foils, to the memorabilia.

This is your assurance that the item is genuine. It also protects your investment by being able to register your purchase on a nation-wide database.

True blue collectables is very excited to be able to bring you some Special pieces of Soccer history.

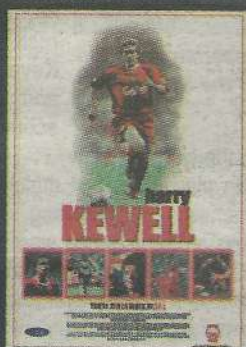
To be also salutes Harry, as he becomes a world-renowned athlete and superstar. Along with this meteoric rise, **True blue collectables** has now made available some simply magnificent memorabilia that will be a showpiece for generations to come.

See on this Page below for our Special Christmas offers.

If it isn't **True blue collectables**, it isn't.

Gifts, Goals & Heroes

True blue collectables is proud to bring you the STARS of World Soccer. As we are the Exclusive producer of Memorabilia for Harry Kewell, we have some amazing showpieces at great prices just in time for Christmas. Harry is wowing fans and opponents in the Premier League and as Australia's greatest soccer player, the sky is the limit. These pieces below represent the best of Harry Kewell memorabilia and soccer fans are sure to highly treasure these as stunning showpieces from world soccer superstars.



Harry Kewell's story of growing up Sydney with a dream of playing for the Liverpool FC. Stunning unsigned print with breathtaking images from Kewell's new side as well as the Socceroos. Limited to 950 worldwide.

Fully Framed Size: 520 x 800mm

ONLY \$199

plus \$25 shipping



Michael Owen - He continues to break record for club and country and he is still only 23. Looks sure to become one of the all-time greats, especially now that he has teamed up with our boy, Harry. Hand signed autograph has been included with two stunning photos and plaque of his statistics.

Fully Framed size: 450 x 780mm

ONLY \$495

plus \$25 shipping

Best of both worlds, not only does this piece have a stunning photo of Harry Kewell playing for the Socceroos versus England, but also his dream club, Liverpool. Included in the collage is a beautiful hand-signed autograph of Harry Kewell and a large plaque with all of Harry's details.

ONLY \$495

plus \$25 shipping

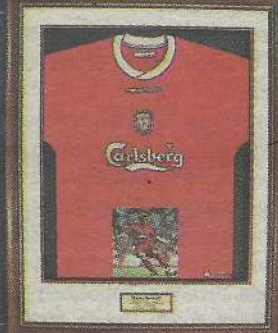


An Official Reebok Liverpool home jersey has been signed by superstar Harry Kewell boldly and clearly. Has been authenticated by the A-Tag Company and looks amazing. Signed by Harry just before the friendly versus Jamaica. Fully framed with acid free matt boards and quality timber moulding.

Fully Framed size: 850 x 1020 mm

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These stunning presentations make a unique showpiece for visitors, friends and family. Only the finest materials including acid free Matt boards and quality timbers are used. Authenticity is assured with 100% money back guarantee and the Authentication Company, A-Tag verification. You will be absolutely delighted with your selection. Please act fast to avoid disappointment. These limited offers will not last....

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from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

IS WINTER REALLY THE ANSWER?

The question on everyone's lips this past week has been whether winter soccer would best suit the new revamped National Soccer League set to kick-off next year?

Many soccer followers have digested their views on the Summer vs Winter match-up, I however believe strongly that summer is still the way to go.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina was quoted from the 'Herald Sun', last week stating that winter was the country's best option as it meant that Europe's best teams could tour Oz, Aussies playing abroad would be able to come back and play as guest players (something I know clubs overseas would not agree to), and lastly saying that Australia's winters aren't really that cold.

One of the finer options Frank forgot to point out is that if the code was to revert back to winter then we'd have to tackle the likes of both the Union and League codes AFL as well.

Australians have become accustomed to loving their so-called 'footy', but unfortunately the round ball does not come into fruition with many of these followers.

The only way the sport can prosper and promote itself in the mainstream media is to have it in summer.

Mainstream newspapers, radio and television stations struggle to fit any soccer stories now, imagine taking on the likes of winning space against the other football codes - good luck!

Its not about whether our winter is warmer than others, or whether we could invite sides to tour this country - it's about forming the foundation of a new league.

To get the game off the ground especially with this new 10-team APL format you need to know that there will be little or no competition around that time frame.

Here's to summer soccer - the sun and lovely weather!

TANNER SLAMS 10 TEAM PUSH

Plans for an eight or ten team national competition will prove disastrous, according to FIFA agent and sports marketer Chris Tanner.

The prediction was made by Tanner with less than three weeks to go before a special task force announces major changes to the national league. The task force, appointed by the Australian Soccer Association, will make a statement on December 1 after spending time investigating the sport in this country.

One of the most talked about issues is the axing of a number of clubs as part of the reduction of the competition.

The Sydney market is set to be the hardest hit, with two broad-based clubs possibly taking over from the existing five clubs. Multi millionaire and Sydney Roosters chairman Nick Politis, formerly involved with Olympic Sharks, is believed to be interested in one of the franchises.

But this plan has received opposition from Tanner, Northern Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna and Gold Coast Soccer Federation president Peter Gray. "Quite frankly, if that [a ten team league] happens it will be an absolute disaster. It will be tantamount to self destruction" Tanner said.

"The Crawford Report wants a closer link with the grass roots of the game, therefore cutting clubs will be harmful and not in the spirit of the report."

Tanner discussed the need for an association between clubs and regions and mentioned possible expansion of the soccer market to include areas such as Canberra, the Central Coast, Gold Coast and North Queensland.

"I believe we will be far better off with a self-funded sixteen team competition" he said.

The issue of the make up of the national league will also have an impact on the development of young talent in Australia, according to Tanner.

He argues that the reduction in the size of the National Soccer League will force more young players to travel overseas to further their careers.

"Frank Farina and others have rightly stated that we have to keep the kids here to play a couple of seasons in the NSL before they try their luck overseas," he said.

"That's all good and well but, by reducing the size of the league you are going to provide less opportunities for the youngsters."

McKinna agrees. "I don't think ten [teams] is enough because it does not provide enough games. It will also stunt the development of younger players" he said.

McKinna, who has played in the NSL before being awarded the 2002-2003 Coach of the Year, considers plans to bring back the many foreign-based players may backfire in terms of bringing younger players into the game.

Peter Gray, a one time Soccer Australia commissioner and NSW Soccer Federation President, says it will be a "huge mistake" to reduce the size of the NSL and believes the Gold Coast has the potential to support a team.

"We have to increase, not decrease. The ASA has to take the game to the people," Gray said.

"The Gold Coast has 8000 registered players at the moment and we expect to have close to 20,000 by 2010. We are a growth area that should not be ignored."

This area is on the list of task force representatives, who will visit the area in the coming weeks.

A recent SBS poll indicated that 47 per cent of fans favour a fourteen team competition, 32 per cent say twelve, while a ten team league polled the lowest, with 18 per cent.

In a statement issued to The Australian, ASA spokesperson Gary Moretti said: "The ASA has received a significant amount of written submissions on the restructure of the NSL, including feedback and opinion on the composition of the league."

The NSL Taskforce, established by Chairman Mr Lowy and his Board will present their recommendations on a new national competition in December and the final decision on the number of teams in the new national league will be made by the ASA Board."

Tanner questioned the credibility of the taskforce, citing repeated leaks to the media and separate agendas.

The ASA would not comment on the views expressed by Tanner, McKinna and Gray.

*With assistance from Peter Damalas



One of Australia's leading Player Agents Chris Tanner has knocked back the ten-team APL idea.

COSTANZO CHASED BY ADELAIDE?

Former Adelaide crowd favourite Angelo Costanzo may be coming home to play for Adelaide United.

The Marconi midfielder has openly admitted on Adelaide radio that he would like to return to Adelaide. The Adelaide United hierarchy have listened to Costanzo and are actively pursuing bringing him home.

Costanzo is contracted to Marconi until 2005. It is unlikely Marconi would release their very highly regarded midfielder before the end of the 2003/2004 NSL season. However his signing would be a major boost for Adelaide United in its

second season in 2004/2005.

In other player news it is believed Adelaide United are close to signing up another former Adelaide boy in Dino Menillo. The versatile Menillo would add much needed depth to the squad and possibly shore up the left-hand flank of Adelaide United.

AUSSIE AT REAL MADRID?

Australian SFX agent and former Socceroo Andy 'Birch' Bernal last week stated exclusively to 'the sheds', that he had a young Australian lad training at Spanish glamour side Real Madrid last week.

Having spent 10 days with Real, more news on this unknown Australian youngster will be revealed in a full story interview next week.

Meanwhile, Bernal himself has also had his fair share of fun since his overseas move to Spain.

Having Acted as David Beckham's translator (Bernal being Spanish), 'Birch' had the pleasure of brushing noses with some of the best players in the world. Those included Zidane, Figo, Roberto Carlos, Raul to name a few.

Bernal will be giving ABSW his views on how his time was spent in Madrid.

KEVO ALMOST BACK

Most soccer followers will have forgotten the name of Kevo Gulesserian. The 22-year-old former AIS graduate was one of this country's leading youth stars a couple of seasons ago but injuries cut short his rise to the top.

Known for his sharp-shooting and scoring abilities, the Marconi striker has been out of action for close to two years. "He's only been a week back so we don't want to rush him, but Kevo's an out and out goal scorer", coach



Kevo Gulesserian is off the mend for the Stallions.

JP stated on the club's website.

Gulesserian played his first match against a touring Vietnamese side Den Nang.

Also making an appearance was 17-year-old Stefan Del Zio who from reports impressed JP.

The former Power youth player has been quite happy since his signing at Marconi and wants nothing more but some game time in the Stallions starting squad.

"I've been training with the senior squad and the coaching staff have been telling me to keep my head up and keep working because I'll get my chance. I was delighted to play against the Vietnamese last week. It gives me a massive confidence boost knowing the coach wanted to see me in a senior game. At this point my whole focus is on breaking into the Marconi first team", Del Zio stated to Marconi's website.

STOP PRESS: RADIO 98.5

Sydney ABSW Readers, for all the latest news and results on the National League and abroad, tune into 98.5 FM every Sunday evening's at 10PM for your weekly dose of football.

Led by ABSW's Italian and National League correspondent Joe Russo, 98.5's Italian correspondent Joseph Carlucci, English Premier League buff Stuart Jones and also ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis - opinions from these soccer experts have and will be voiced over live on air - Tune in to the real soccer station.

photo of the week



Smiling Assassin: U20s coach Ange Postecoglou hopes his Arabian trek with his young squad will see them advance past the group stages. If you all remember

correctly, Ange had a goatee, now it looks as though the former South Melbourne coach has opted for a younger look - well done Ange! (Photo By Carlos Fariado)

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE KICK-OFF

CRESCENT STAR SHOCK CHAMPS

	A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	1
	Sydney Crescent Star	3

By Paul Goodwin

It had been a rain-ravaged weekend already and this game was played under threatening skies, but on a near perfect pitch.

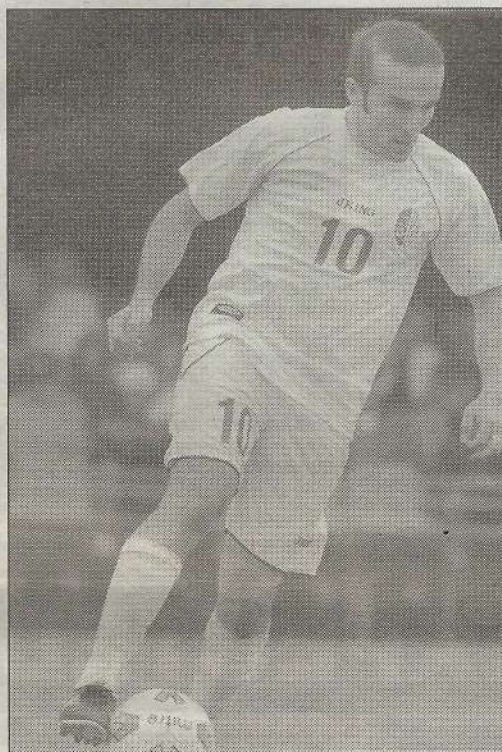
In order to preserve its pristine state, the Under 20 match was called off and will now be played on the same ground on Wednesday (tomorrow) at 6.30 pm.

Crescent Star had come out of the Johnny Warren Cup with a win and a draw and did see the new season as one where they might consolidate their position at the top level after carrying all before them during the winter Super League.

Most spectators were expecting an attacking game and, despite the loss of Tanju Balabanel to Wollongong Wolves, Crescent Star was still a side that would always expect to go for goal and to some extent so were the Tigers.

The star-studded A.P.I.A. team faced a strengthened Crescent Star from their Super League days and it was to prove an open contest throughout; but one that produced a shock result.

The lush Lambert Park pitch provided the Super League's double winners with a fine opportunity to showcase their talents against the Premier League's championship holders and with room to roam the visitors made the most of their opportunity to shine in front of a reasonable crowd.



Yavuz Ekinci on the ball

Of the two sides A.P.I.A. began the brighter and, while they had been under a little early pressure that required stand-in keeper Stewart Vella to palm away a near-post effort from Crescent Star skipper Yavuz Ekinci, it did not really look at

that early stage as if the newly-promoted side would trouble their opponents too much. It came as no surprise, then, when A.P.I.A. took a tenth minute lead.

When they did, many people might have been expecting a lot more goals, but it was at the other end where most of the chances in the game went begging.

The home side's goal came when newcomer and local man David Barrett got past his man on the right and drove one in from a tight angle, inside the six yard area.

Angelo Petratos may not have got a call from his keeper as, facing his own goal, he could only help the ball past the custodian before the latter could collect it.

This gaffe did not faze Crescent Star who redoubled their attacking efforts and were rewarded in the 24th minute.

After several A.P.I.A. players had missed chances of their own and both Ekinci and former A.P.I.A. man Joe Bruni had seen shots blocked either by the keeper or a by a defender's boot, Crescent Star drew level.

George Issa, performing a fetching and carrying role on the right, made his way into the penalty area and when a gap opened up he let fly with a great rising shot that sailed past Vella and into the top left corner of the net, from the right of the box.

It was mostly Crescent Star as the first half drew to a close and Bruni, Ekinci and this time Tony Alilovic were all out of luck as Vella did some sterling work in goal for his new side.

Seven minutes after the restart a horrible mix up between the same keeper and his defensive partner, Paul Bilokapic, allowed Ekinci to steal in and gain possession close to goal before planting the ball in an empty net.

Apart from a series of crosses that Steve Tolios dealt with adequately and some attempts by Zlatko Arambasic to connect with headers, nothing was really seen that might have troubled Crescent Star at the back.

Their defensive frailties, so prevalent in the winter months, appeared to have been addressed.

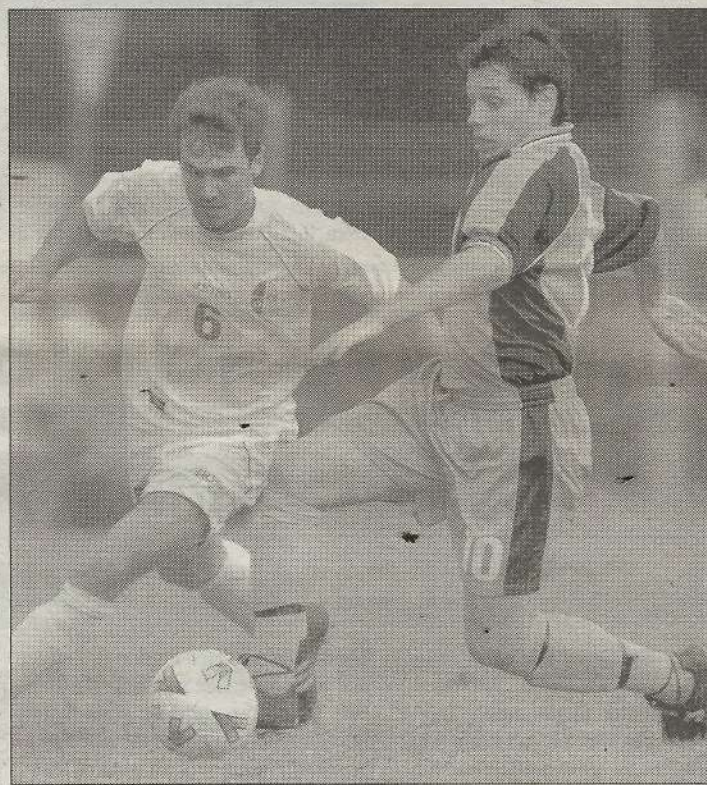
Substitute striker Hakan Sevgin, on for the tiring Ekinci, who had not played a role in the pre-season tournament since the opening night, missed a gilt-edged chance, right in front, in the 80th minute that would have sealed the win for the visitors, but Sevgin did not have to wait long to do that anyway.

Daniel Willoughby went down the left, exposing James Stubbs' Mills for speed, after an A.P.I.A. attack had broken down, then Willoughby cut the ball back to Sevgin who, unattended, had a virtual tap-in for number three.

Shortly after that Tolios pulled off a great one-handed save to deny Ryan Jones at point-blank range.

The 3-1 win had been secured and Crescent Star had begun the summer season just as they had ended the winter one; with a win.

It was a big surprise for the reigning champions, and coach De Celis will have to do some hard thinking before this week's match against Bonnyrigg.



A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt's Norman Tome (right) is challenged by Sydney Crescent Star's Anthony Hartshorn



Terry Atsas takes a tumble

A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT 1
(D Barrett 10')
SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR 3
(G Issa 24', Y Ekinci 52', H Sevgin 83')
at Lambert Park, Leichhardt

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Stewart Vella, David Barrett, Damon Langan (C), Paul Bilokapic, Robbie Stanton, Michael Galtuzzo (Roger Jones 78), Tony Alilovic (James Monie 57), James Stubbs-Mills, Christian Care (Meliksah Mengi 90), Zlatko Arambasic, Norman Tome
Subs not used: Nil
Coach: Les de Celis

SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR: Steve Tolios, Michael Cindric, Angelo Petratos (C), Askin Oygur, Filip Marzec (Daniel Willoughby 79), Shane Hammond, Anthony Hartshorn, George Issa, Terry Atsas, Yavuz Ekinci (Hakan Sevgin 66), Joe Bruni
Subs not used: RGK Ali Akbal, Volkan Kir, Ugur Tokdogan
Coach: Yasin Ozdenak
Referee: Nick Asargiotis

Assistant Referees: Nick Radic and David Finlay
Fourth Official: Keith Anderson
Yellow Cards: A.P.I.A.: Nil; Sydney Crescent Star: Shane Hammond 70

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Tale of Two Penalties

Belconnen Blue Devils	1
St George Saints	1

By Paul Goodwin

Belconnen and St George fought out an absorbing 1-1 draw at a cold and windy McKellar Soccer Centre on Saturday night in front of a small crowd, deterred as much by the inclement weather as by the attraction of an international game of rugby union on the television the same evening.

St George, only ordinary in the pre-season competition, were expected to struggle against a Blue Devils side that had looked polished in their own trial outings.

The Saints sprang a few surprises before the game, however, leaving Bruno Beddoni on the bench in favour of their young striker, James Kovas and rushing new player Mirko Jurilj into the starting line up, after moved across from Wollongong in midweek.

Missing from their side was Czech

striker Dalibor Slezak, who could not be signed on terms that suited the club, and Seb Sinozic, whose clearance came through too late for him to be included.

With Kovas the lone front runner and with the midfield working hard to starve the Blue Devils of the ball the visitors held a surprisingly high proportion of possession in the first half, but rarely troubled their opponents close to goal.

By contrast a far from fit Ricardo Patrizi had plenty to do in the St George goal and pulled off some excellent saves, cutting out crosses repeatedly and racing off his line to intercept with some good timing and not a small degree of bravery.

St George had a chance to open their account in the 24th when George Lagoudakis raced onto a fine threaded pass from Raphael Bove, but after drawing the keeper the striker drove his shot wide of the left post.

Patrizi was wrong footed by a shot from Ilija Prenzoski in the 39th, but a

deflection took the ball wide and resulted only in a corner.

A fine St George move in the 53rd involving Adrian Webster, Bove and Gabriel Mendez led to Mendez being brought down just outside the box, but the free kick proved fruitless.

Belconnen began to claw their way back into the game soon after this and went close several times, but looked to have gained a huge advantage when Saint's skipper, Mendez, was dismissed in the 55th for a second caution.

Anthony Galliozzi was then introduced by the home side in an attempt to capitalise on the extra man and he did spark his team well.

He and David Arranz combined well on the left to set up Macor but the latter's 75th minute effort was tame and then two minutes later he was denied by a great one-handed save by Patrizi when Macor was through on goal at very close range.

Then came a sudden change of fortune.

Unexpectedly, Saints substitute Cristian Cevenini came down in the box under the challenge of Alex Castro, after Webster and Bove had done some good lead up work and sent the youngster into a scoring position on the left.

The spot kick was put away by Bove with ease and suddenly the ten men of St George were a goal up and it was already the 81st.

Belconnen then gave the visitors a torrid final ten minutes as they went about trying to at least draw level again. This they did in the 89th, again from a penalty,

when Nick Bolianitis clipped Mike Katz on the way to goal after the latter had been put away by Macor.

It was unfortunate for the Saints to lose two of their precious points this way, but the home side's constant pressure had told.

Castro almost took the third point away from them in the 90th, when he turned smartly inside the box, only to fire just over the bar.

The draw was probably a fair reflection of the game, given the overall fluctuations it had been subject to.

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS1
(D Macor 90' pen)
ST GEORGE SAINTS1
(R Bove 80' pen)

at McKellar Soccer Centre, McKellar

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Tony Giannasca (C), Adrian Dowling (Anthony Galliozzi 69), Lee Pietrukowski, Oscar Zamora, Ilich Prenzoski, Elliott Zwagobani Daniel Macor, David Arranz, Nic Purdue (Clinton Larfield 85), Alex Castro, Mike Katz
Subs not used: Jimmy Carr (RGK), Scott Conlan, Topica Popovich
Coach: Chris Tanzey

ST GEORGE: Ricardo Patrizi, Nick Bolianitis, Vince Savoca, Mirko Jurilj, Adrian Webster (Zoki Adioski 89), Raphael Bove, Max Sevaes, Gabriel Mendez (C), George Lagoudakis (Cristian Cevenini 65), Simon Verrender, James Kovas (Daniel Watkins 75)
Sub not used: Dejan Josipovic (RGK), Bruno Beddoni
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Referee: Hayden Mathieson
Assistant Referees: Brett Woodford and Stephen Coles
Fourth Official: Niraj Lal
Red Card: Gabriel Mendez 55
Yellow Cards: Belconnen: Nil; St George: Raphael Bove 55, George Lagoudakis 12, Gabriel Mendez 41 and 55.

UNITED SEIZE UNEXPECTED POINT

Parramatta Eagles	2
Central Coast United	2

By Greg Stock

Parramatta Eagles coach Trevor Morgan was left to lament what might have been after watching his side come within sixty seconds of a first-up win against Central Coast at Melita Stadium on Sunday night.

Instead of celebrating a unique victory, Morgan was left a shattered man after a late injury time equalizer from James Subat allowed the Coasties to escape with a share of the points.

"To say I am disappointed is an understatement" said Morgan, "the Coasties were never in the hunt but we couldn't put the game away when had the opportunity and we made two silly mistakes that led to their goals."

At 2-0 up in the 50th minute it should have been clear sailing for the Eagles who had outmuscled and outenthused the visitors to take a well-deserved lead.

Showing more determination in defence and more adventure in attack, the home side scored two dazzling goals in two minutes midway through the first half to set up what seemed like a winning lead.

If the first goal was a gem, the second was a diamond that had the Eagles faithful on their feet cheering wildly. Ismael Arrate pouncing on a rare Mitchell Daley error to send a well weighted pass to Matthew Clowes, who deftly got on the outside of defender Beau Busch and beat Matthew Trott to the far post. Sixty seconds later Vic Constable used his speed to run onto a long defensive clearance from goalkeeper Peter Munsie to successfully go one on one with Trott.

But two elementary defensive errors down the left-hand side allowed the Coasties to snatch an unlikely point as they exploited an obvious deficiency in the Eagles armour. In the 50th minute Daniel Surridge snuck in behind Ben

Delicata and was able to gather a long ball from Doug West and successfully beat the advancing Peter Munsie. Clearly dazed from an earlier knock, Delicata was replaced shortly after complaining of dizziness after a clash with goalkeeper Trott.

But the killer punch came deep into injury time with little more than a minute left on the clock. Well held for most of the night, James Subat was able to shed his marker long enough to race onto a well weighted pass from John Bennis to hit his shot on the angle and beat Munsie at the far post.

It was a well-taken strike from Subat, a player that is attracting some positive reviews and some obvious comparisons with former Coasties striker James Monie.

"He joined us during the pre-season from Weston in the Newcastle league," said Central Coast boss Jim Foley.

"He has scored quite a few goals during the trial games but none more important than his goal

tonight, and we are quietly confident he can make the grade at this level."

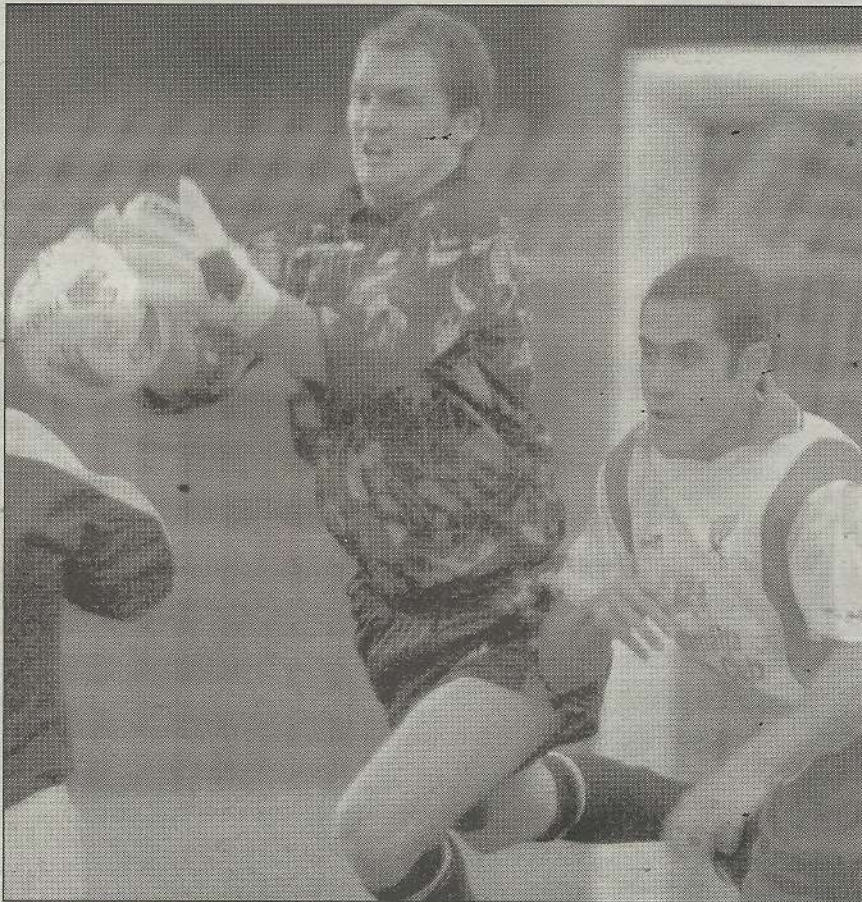
On the subject of the result Foley was understandably ecstatic. "It is a brilliant result for us. I would have been happy with the boys learning some hard lessons in a tough loss, but we hung in there and picked up a point which is a real bonus."

Eagles boss Trevor Morgan left to

shake his head and wonder where it all went wrong.

"I was very happy with the way we played, but not so happy that we made a couple of errors and got punished.

"We kept the Coasties in it when we didn't take our chances and we were robbed of another two competition points."



Parramatta Eagles goalkeeper Peter Munsie grapples with the ball in slippery conditions

PARRAMATTA EAGLES2
(M Clowes 24', V Constables 25')
CENTRAL COAST UNITED2
(D Surridge 50', J Subat 90')
at Melita Stadium, South Granville

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: 1. Peter Munsie, 5. Mark Reveley (C), 4. Ismael Arrate, 3. Matthew Rosier, 6. Daniel Borg, 7. Matthew O'Shea, 8. Matthew Clowes, 9. Andy Kane, 10. Anthony Mittiga, 11. Vic Constable, 15. Ben Delicata (12. Michael De Bono 63').
Coach: Trevor Morgan

CENTRAL COAST UNITED: 1. Matthew Trott, 6. Mitchell Daley (10. Ben Murrell 86'), 4. Sean Matthews, 13. Daniel Surridge, 8. John Bennis, 14. Doug West, 12. Kristian Shepherd (2. Aaron Binskin 46'), 5. Bray Busch, 9. James Subat, 16. Marc Falzon (11. Nathan Bym 70'), 3. David Brewer.
Coach: Jim Foley

Referee: Ray Isaac
Assistant Referees: Michael Collins and Gareth Askham
Fourth Official: Sandro Perticarini
Yellow Cards: West (cc) 64' Clowes (pe) 68' Borg (pe) 88'



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GOLDEN STRIKE FROM PHILLIPS

Penrith Panthers	0
Blacktown City Demons	3



Marcus Phillips celebrates scoring Blacktown's third goal

By Paul Goodwin

Penrith and Blacktown turned up at Cook Park St Marys for the opening game of the season and served up a great derby for the western Sydney fans in gloomy conditions.

The match, played on a very wet Cook Park pitch, and was a dour struggle that was taken out by the Demons 3-0.

Despite controlling over fifty percent of the game, the Panthers paid for not converting their opportunities, and came away on the wrong end of a scoreline which, for many, was not a true indication of the match.

It was a case of one side taking their opportunities and the other not - an old

story in football.

Much of the early play belonged to the Panthers, with a cascade of good chances falling to Adam Anderson, Jason Connolly and then Luke Boyd in the second, fourth and sixth minutes respectively.

After these early chances, and somewhat against the run of play, Blacktown's Josh Maguire got on the end of a Demons' free kick to slot the ball past Chad Taylor in the 8th minute.

Two minutes from the break, the Panthers had their best opportunity of the half when Luke O'Connell, capitalising on good work from Adam Anderson, was able to get in and try a one-on-one shot which was well saved by Crawley.

The deflected shot fell to O'Connell, whose follow up shot was magnificently saved off the line by young Demons' defender Jehan Loke, who starred in the Under-19's competition for Blacktown last season.

Right on half time Luke Roodenburg had a great chance to extend the Demons' lead but the Panthers defence scrambled well.

The first half had seen a great tussle in the middle of the park, with the Demons' Marcus Phillips, Joshua Maguire and Kain Rastall well matched by the Panthers' middle quartet of Daniel McCann, Jason Connolly, Luke Boyd and Peter Bennett.

Straight after the re-start, Simon Catanzaro had a great chance, after Kain Rastall slotted a great ball through him, but nothing came of it.

Twelve minutes into the second period Daniel McCann was able to get clear only for Rastall to bring him down from behind.

The tackle was deemed worthy of a yellow card by referee Greg Leverton and, as this was Rastall's second caution, Leverton directed the hard working midfielder towards a very early shower. He looked like he needed it.

A minute later Sciberras again was in the play, with a great ball through to Adam Anderson whose shot was tipped over the bar by Crawley. The corner was cleared by the Demons' and the ball quickly was sent through to the Demons' strikers.

Luke Roodenburg was able to wrong foot the Panthers defence and get into the clear before drawing Chad Taylor and slotting the ball into the net, for Blacktown City to take a well-worked 2-0 lead.

This clearly took the wind out of the Panthers sails and gave Blacktown some breathing space following the dismissal of Rastall.

In the 60th minute, Penrith's Peter Bennett brought out the best in Crawley, with the Demons' skipper having to stretch high to tip the veteran midfielder's shot over the bar.

The 72nd minute brought the Demons' third goal, and it was an absolute cracker from

Marcus Phillips. The strike was a pearler which capitalised on a great long ball from the goal-scorer to Roodenburg and a return pass for Phillips to volley from 30 yards past Taylor and into the top right hand corner of the net.

As Demons' Coach Brian Brown stated after the game, "that goal was something right out of the box, a better goal you would not expect to see at any level".

The Demons' manager Ken Schembri commented also that the goal would be the favourite for the goal of the year; a strike that made you all stand and applaud.

The match, while free-flowing, did not produce any further goalscoring opportunities until five minutes from time, when Penrith's Jason Connolly had an effort that was intercepted by Roger Galayini, whose follow up effort came back off the upright.

Demons' Coach Brian Brown felt Patrick Gatt, Joshua Maguire, and Marcus Phillips were the best for his side, in what he nominated as a solid team effort.

Panthers' coach Tony Rassmussen, on the other hand, felt that despite the scoreline, this was the one that got away.

Rassmussen stated that he felt his side had seventy per cent of the game, and was stunned to see them 3-0 behind on the scoreboard.

However Rassmussen highlighted that the way the Demons' ground out a win as an advantage that the Demons' always have over their opponents, and one that often places them among the title contenders.

While disappointed with the result, Rassmussen was positive on the efforts of his charges.

The Panthers' coach picked out Jason Connolly as his best while closely behind were Luke Boyd and Daniel McCann, with Peter Bennett clearly seen to good effect in his first match for the Panthers' after a stint in Singapore.

The Panthers did well on the whole but lacked the killer instinct, which the ten-man Demons were able to exploit.



Jason Connolly looks on as a mud-spattered Kain Rastall is dismissed in the 58th minute

PENRITH PANTHERS 0
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS ... 3
(J Maguire 7', L Roodenburg 58', M Phillips 72')
at Cook Park, St Marys

PENRITH PANTHERS: Chad Taylor, Malcolm Mollak, Daniel Wells, Peter Bennett, Adam Anderson, Jason Connolly, Luke O'Connell (C) (Tim O'Connell 79), Jason Sciberras, Daniel McCann (Marty McCaffery 80), Paul Marosevic (Roger Galayini 65), Luke Boyd
Subs not used: RGK Kurt Van Arkkels and Danny Hinton
Coach: Tony Rassmussen

BLACKTOWN CITY: John Crawley (C), Damien Foxe, Ben Willard, Patrick Gatt, Paul Urlovic (Dominic Magill 80), Marcus Phillips, Josh Maguire, Kain Rastall, Simon Catanzaro (Dane Hokin 85), Luke Roodenburg, Jehan Loke
Sub not used: RGK Nik Jelic and George McLean
Coach: Brian Brown

Referee: Greg Leverton
Assistant Referees: Ernie Horvath and Sonny Afshar
Fourth Official: Jim Barnes
Red Card: Blacktown: Kain Rastall 58
Yellow Cards: Penrith: Luke Boyd 44, Roger Galayini 73; Blacktown: Kain Rastall 36, 58, Marcus Phillips 58



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FIRST GRADE RESULTS & TABLES

Belconnen Blue Devils1 (D Macor 90' pen)	St George Saints1 (R Bove 80' pen)
Penrith Panthers0	Blacktown City demons3 (J Maguire 7', L Roodenburg 58', M Philips 72')
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers1 (D Barrett 10')	Sydney Crescent Star3 (G Issa 24', Y Ekinci 52', H Sevgin 83')
Parramatta Eagles2 (M Clowes 24', V Constabile 25')	Central Coast United2 (D Surridge 50', J Subat 92')
Rockdale City SunsP	Bonnyrigg White EaglesP
Bankstown City LionsP	Canterbury MarrickvilleP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Sydney Crescent Star	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
Central Coast United	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Parramatta Eagles	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Belconnen Blue Devils	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
St George Saints	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Bankstown City Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury Marrickville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockdale City Suns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Penrith Panthers	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

GRADE 20 RESULTS & TABLES

Belconnen Blue Devils2 (D Camara)	St George Saints0
Penrith Panthers1 (M Noro 60')	Blacktown City Demons2 (B Stephen 18', J Triforo 70')
Parramatta Eagles2 (L Berbis 52', M Kassiss 65')	Central Coast United0
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt TigersP	Sydney Crescent StarP
Rockdale City SunsP	Bonnyrigg White EaglesP
Bankstown City LionsP	Canterbury MarrickvilleP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Belconnen Blue Devils	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Parramatta Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
Blacktown City Demons	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Bankstown City Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury Marrickville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockdale City Suns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney Crescent Star	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penrith Panthers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Central Coast United	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
St George Saints	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

NEXT ROUND 2

FIRST GRADE

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
Central Coast United	v Sydney Crescent Star	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Mingara Rec. Centre
St George Saints	v Rockdale City Suns	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	St George Stadium
Penrith Panthers	v Penrith Panthers	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Cook Park
Canterbury-Marrickville	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun 30th Nov.	5.00pm	Henson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Blacktown City Demons	Sun 30th Nov.	6.00pm	Melita Stadium

GRADE 20

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Serbian Centre
Central Coast United	v Sydney Crescent Star	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Mingara Rec. Centre
St George Saints	v Rockdale City Suns	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	St George Stadium
Penrith Panthers	v Penrith Panthers	Sat 29th Nov.	7.00pm	Cook Park
Canterbury-Marrickville	v Belconnen Blue Devils	Sun 30th Nov.	5.00pm	Henson Park
Parramatta Eagles	v Blacktown City Demons	Sun 30th Nov.	6.00pm	Melita Stadium

LEADING GOALSCORERS

- 1 J Maguire, L Roodenburg, M Philips (Blacktown City Demons), G Issa, Y Ekinci, H Sevgin (Sydney Crescent Star), D Surridge, J Subat (Central Coast United), M Clowes, V Constabile (Parramatta Eagles), D Camara (Belconnen Blue Devils), R Bove (St George Saints), D Barrett (A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers)

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE TIPPING COLUMN



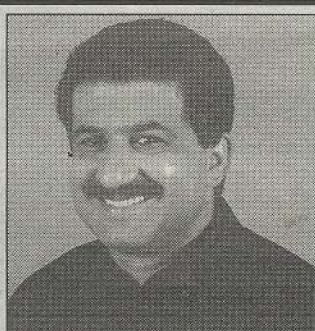
PAUL GOODWIN
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
BONNYRIGG
BELCONNEN
PENRITH
CENTRAL COAST
ROCKDALE
DRAW

Points = 0



TARYN ROCKALL
NSW SAPPHIRES CAPTAIN
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT
CANTERBURY
BANKSTOWN
CRESCENT STAR
ST GEORGE SAINTS
BLACKTOWN

Points = 1



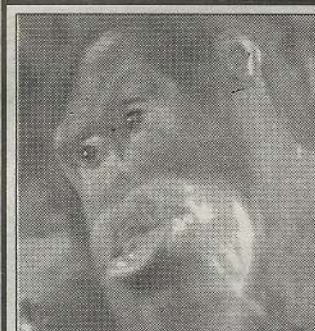
ANDY PASCHALIDIS
ELITE SPORTS TRAVEL
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT
BELCONNEN
PENRITH
CENTRAL COAST UTD
ROCKDALE
BLACKTOWN

Points = 2



GREG STOCK
SOCCER NSW JOURNALIST
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT
CANTERBURY
PENRITH PANTHERS
DRAW
ROCKDALE
BLACKTOWN

Points = 0



'PEANUTS'
THE MONKEY
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT
CANTERBURY
PENRITH PANTHERS
ROCKDALE
BLACKTOWN
CRESCENT STAR

Points = 1



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ROUND 2 PREVIEW



Bonnyrigg White Eagles VS A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers



**Saturday 29th November at Serbian Centre
Kick-off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

Without a game last weekend, following a triumph in the Johnny Warren Cup, the Bonnyrigg White Eagles will lick their lips with anticipation at the thought of facing A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt in their first Premier League outing for the season.

Last year this was one that Bonnyrigg won well and they do have a good squad yet again for the re-match.

Coach Ljube Jancev reports that he has a full squad at his disposal for the opening encounter.

"We have everybody fit now and we fear nobody," Jancev declared. "Richard Harrison has been nursing an injury, but he should be ready to at least come off the bench. "Fred Umlil may be in doubt due to other activities, but I'm expecting a lot from Shane Cevenini and he will be ready," he went on. Jancev was among many interested spectators at Lambert Park to see Crescent

Star's demolition job on A.P.I.A.

Much is also expected of Bonnyrigg youngsters Milorad Simonovic, Dejan Malenica and Dalibor Drca along with experienced campaigner Greg Collins. All of these players are either new or were not regulars in the first team last season.

A.P.I.A. will have keeper Brad Swancott back for this one and Andrew Clark's clearance from Malaysia should also be through in time for him to take up his place along the backline. James Monie who came on against Crescent Star and the previously suspended Paul Dee may also figure in selection for this vital game.

A.P.I.A. are not the kind of side to sit back and let Bonnyrigg come at them so we would expect a game of much attacking flair.



Central Coast United VS Sydney Crescent Star



**Saturday 29th November at Mingara Rec. Centre
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

The Coasties can think themselves lucky after escaping from Melita Stadium last Sunday evening with a point, but they shouldn't expect any favours from Crescent Star who put last years champions A.P.I.A. to the sword 3-1.

"Crescent Star are an unknown quantity to us and we will need to give them every respect after their result against Leichhardt," said cautious Coasties coach Jim Foley.

With a flu bug going through the camp, Foley will wait until the very last before naming his squad but, theoretically at least, expects no major changes to the side, which did well to come from behind to draw 2-2 with the Eagles.

"We are still very undone and with a number of the boys struggling with the flu it could well be a difficult

week for us," continued Foley.

"I was very happy with the effort the guys showed in the second half against Parramatta but we need to tighten up defensively and become a little more cohesive as a unit."

Any defensive frailties will need to be patched up urgently, with Crescent Star adopting an attacking game plan sure to test the Coasties mettle.

Despite losing Tanju Balabanel to Wollongong, Crescent Star still have the likes of Joe Bruni and Hans Sevgin, who are amongst the quickest strikers in the league and they'll be keen to continue on the good form from round one.

The newcomers have a free-flowing style that should be able to stretch to Central Coast backline in what should be a very interesting match-up.



St George Saints VS Rockdale City Suns



**Saturday 29th November at St George Stadium
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

The local derby at a revamped St. George Stadium always provides a dramatic contest and with both teams considered amongst this years top chances, there should be plenty to action.

St. George limped home from their roadtrip to Canberra last weekend with a valuable point after an indifferent performance from their key men against Belconnen.

Playmaker Gabriel Mendez was sent off early in the second half and will miss the customary one-week, forcing coach Manny Spanoudakis to make a key positional change.

The inclusion of defender Sebastian Sinozic and switching Adrian Webster could be one option, with veteran Zoki Adioski moving onto the flank.

Alternatively Daniel Watkins or Bruno Beddoni

could come into the starting lineup, pushing Bove into the centre of the park, Spanoudakis having an embarrassment of football talent from which to decide.

Rockdale had their first up clash with Bonnyrigg postponed due to the wet weather with coach Bill Pilovski hastily arranging an extra training session instead. The Suns showing two weeks ago in the Warren Cup was, however, promising.

With no major injury problems they will be at full strength for what shapes as a litmus test for the early form of both sides.

In their ten previous league meetings, the record stands at Rockdale 4 and St George 3 with 3 drawn.

St. George scuttled the Suns post season hopes last year with a come from behind 3-3 draw setting up this clash as one for the visitors to exact some revenge.



Penrith Panthers VS Bankstown City Lions



**Saturday 29th November at Cook Park
Kick-Off 7.00pm First Grade / 5.00pm Grade 20**

Penrith had a disappointing start to the new campaign at their new headquarters of Cook Park when they went down 3-0 to the Demons last Saturday night.

This second game may be a little easier for them, especially since Bankstown's opening round game fell victim to the weather.

Penrith should be an improved side this term and should be able to put that opening game setback behind them.

Penrith did well against Blacktown City and only rotten luck and some stout defending by the Demons denied the Panthers a far better outcome from their first game of the new season.

Bankstown have been pretty quiet in the pre-season and may be a little underdone, at least compared to Penrith, who have had plenty of trials to sharpen them-

selves for this second home game in a row.

Allan Wawi will still be missing for Penrith, as he has another game of his two match suspension to serve from the winter season, but the rest of the new recruits will be in action.

These include the midfield workhorse Peter Bennett, the very versatile Jason Connolly, who did well last weekend, and highly-rated new striker Adam Anderson.

Bankstown's strength may come from the skillful Fernando Santos, who is now beginning his second season with the club. The Lions also have smart defender Geoff Dwyer back from a stint in Malaysia.

The great pairing of Mathew Borg and Marc Hoenselaars up front will probably be among the goals before too long.



Canterbury Marrickville VS Belconnen Blue Devils



**Sunday 30th November at Henson Park
Kick-Off 5.00pm First Grade / 3.00pm Grade 20**

Canterbury was another team to enjoy the weekend off, their match against Bankstown called off on Saturday morning, due to excessive rain, at the request of the local council.

Coach Greg Woodhouse wasted no time pencilling in a light run for his side on Sunday afternoon to make up for the inactivity.

Down in the nations capital on Saturday night Belconnen were slugging it out, posting a hard-fought 1-1 draw in front of a healthy home crowd that augers well for their season.

A good performance from new signing Alex Castro and a solid outing for Michael Katz and Elliot Zwangobani were highlights, with the Blue Devils showing they will be a tough side to beat this season.

"It was a little disappointing not to have got a little

more out of the St. George game but a point is a reasonable start and we'll build on that," said Belconnen midfielder Alex Castro.

The Blue Devils will once again be travelling to their away games by bus with both the second and first grade sides travelling as a unit.

"It's never an ideal situation travelling by coach and something you never get used to," said Castro.

"The club has got it down to an art form after the past few seasons and rather than dwell on the negatives the coaching staff use the time effectively to make sure we hit the pitch mental and physically prepared."

Belconnen have an excellent away record at Henson Park having never been beaten there in three road trips. The closest the Berries have ever come is a 1-1 draw back in the 2000/1 season.



Parramatta Eagles VS Blacktown City Demons



**Sunday 30th November at Melita Stadium
Kick-Off 6.00pm First Grade / 4.00pm Grade 20**

These games between the Eagles and the Demons are always great contests and the Demons will want to post a second win in as many weeks, but the Eagles will be tougher for their first outing against the Coasties and many felt that the 3-0 win by the Demons flattered them last weekend so it may be closer than we think.

Parramatta has the commanding presence of Mark Reveley at the back and is still able to field its regulars such as Daniel Borg, Anthony Mittiga and Ben Delicata, but man for man they do look a little inferior to the Demons. That comment should be just the incentive the Eagles need to lift against the Blacktown side.

Home advantage may help here, but with Blacktown skipper, John Crawley, leading by example from between the sticks and defenders, Damien Foxe, Ben Willard and Patrick Gatt all playing well we would

expect the visitors to be the real testing material.

New recruits Paul Urlovic, Marcus Phillips and Josh Maguire are all making an impression already, Phillips with his skills from set plays and the other pair with their mobility.

Having had Kain Rastall sent off at Penrith will leave Demons' coach Brian Brown a little short handed, but he still has the creative duo of, Simon Catanzaro and Luke Roodenburg to bolster the front runners and this game could well be one of the most attractive of the round.

Melita Stadium is still a difficult place to win games at and it is a good test for Trevor Morgan, the new Parramatta coach, who has taken over from John Calleja. If the crowd turns up and lends this some atmosphere it will also make things more interesting.



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WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SAPPHIRES DEFEAT COMPETITIVE PRIDE

By Janene Mar

NSW Sapphires recorded a solid 3-0 victory over last-placed Northern NSW Pride on Sunday.

Northern were much more competitive this time around, avoiding the 9-0 trounce-

ted into their rhythm.

Kylie Ledbrook's shot from a Taryn Rockall through-ball was saved in fantastic fashion by Pride goalkeeper Alison Logue, before the Sapphires took the lead in the 10th minute. Michelle Carney slid in at the far post to meet a Sally Shipard cross from the left, receiving a knock in

poseful on goal and holding the reins. On the hour, a short corner to Shipard was crossed in for Cannuli but her touch on goal went wide.

Four minutes later, NSW scored number three, Burgess picking out Leah Blayney whose cross was met by a glancing header from Ledbrook. The midfielder's effort rolled into the unattended goal after the keeper had come out to smother the danger. New South Wales are now second-placed on the

of the year that we wanted to win the Grand Final this time. That is our goal this season."

This week the Sapphires will clash with be with the Canberra Eclipse, who had a 0-0 draw with Victoria in Melbourne last week. The match kicks off at Belconnen Soccer Centre, in McKellar, Canberra, at 6pm, this Friday the 28th of November.

After the Canberra game on Friday, the Sapphires will remain in the national capital until Sunday, when the crunch game against Queensland takes place at McKellar Soccer Centre. The top-of-the-table clash will be well worth watching.



NSW player Danielle Brogan



A determined dive by Sapphires goalkeeper Cassandra Kell

ing they received at the hands of the Sapphires in the opening match of the season.

"A few things came into play in this match," said Sapphires captain Taryn Rockall after the match.

"The weather made things pretty difficult. But, also, we had quite a few of the younger squad players getting their first start in the WNSL."

NSW was in control for the vast majority of the match, creating plenty of scoring opportunities, whilst Pride rarely really threatened the opposition goal, resorting mainly to long-range efforts against a solid NSW backline.

On a heavy, rain-sodden pitch, it was Northern who pushed straight into attack, producing a couple of chances in the opening few minutes. But it only served to nudge NSW into action, who soon set-

the process but the shot snuck under the keeper.

Northern hit back but a Meegan Shepherd chance to shoot was blocked by the slide tackle of Carney. Soon after, NSW doubled their lead when Rockall cut the ball back for Catherine Cannuli to thump a low drive into the back of the net. Two minutes later, Cannuli almost scored again, but was denied by an assured save by Logue.

With ten minutes until the break, Lisa Gilbert fed Carney up the right whose cross picked out Cannuli but her diving header flew wide. A Joanne Burgess miss just before half-time sent the home side in with a two-goal lead after her deflected strike sailed just over the crossbar.

The second half continued in much the same vein with Sapphires the more pur-

WNSL ladder behind Queensland Sting. Both sides have sixteen points from six matches, but the Sting attained a single goal-difference advantage after thrashing Adelaide Sensation 8-2 on the weekend.

New South Wales are Queensland are now established as the two clear leaders in the competition. Victoria Vision are currently third with six points.

"Queensland may be on top at this stage, but we said at the start



Catherine Cannuli continued her rich vein of scoring form for the Sapphires



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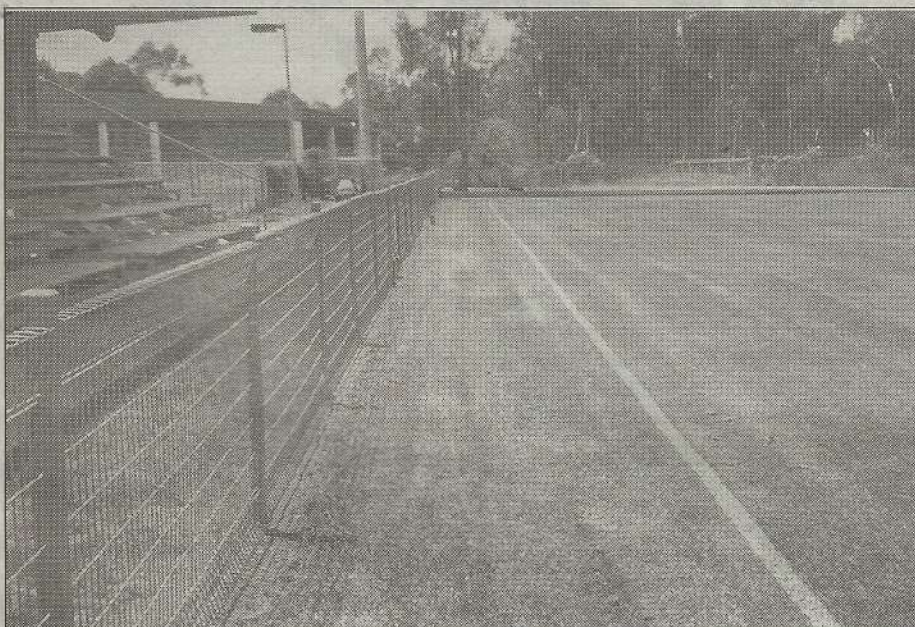
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FROM THE SIDELINES

WITH GREG STOCK



Mother Nature intervenes

Round One of the Premier League season became something of an anti-climax with two critical games called off on Saturday afternoon as a result of the wet weather.

The Rockdale City Suns v Bonnyrigg White Eagles on Saturday night at John Crehan Park and the Bankstown City v Canterbury-Marrickville at Jensen Park both fell victim to Mother Nature with dates for the rescheduled games to be announced soon. The local council were to blame for calling off the Lions match, and in the context of the Eagles

match, the decision was perplexing. Melita Stadium was a picture on Sunday evening and despite the drizzly rain produced an excellent playing surface.

Clark and Monie return

It has been a difficult week for last season's Golden Boot and Gold Medal winner James Monie. Having arrived back in the country last Wednesday week after a season in Malaysia, Monie spent a quiet couple of days with his sister in Canberra.

He returned home to the Central Coast on Friday and had his phone ring off the hook with four offers

from different Premier League clubs. The Coasties and A.P.I.A. were amongst the early favourites, while it was reported in the local Central Coast press that Blacktown City and Bonnyrigg White Eagles also weighed in with late offers.

It was last Wednesday that Monie finally agreed to terms with A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt following his teammate in Malaysia, Andrew Clark, to Lambert Park. Both players are hoping to return to Asia in the new year, but will prove handy additions to coach Les De Celis' squad.

Webster back from UK

Another of the Saints new signings to make an early impression is midfielder Adrian Webster.

A former Macarthur Rams and Blacktown City junior, Webster has spent the last seven years plying his trade in England and has returned to Sydney with a view to reestablishing his career at senior level.

"It was always a dream of mine to play professional football, so I packed up and went over to England as a 15 year-old for trials at Newcastle United," said Webster. "After a week I broke my ankle and had to return to Sydney, so I finished my schooling and then went back from trials at Charlton."

In the youth squad for a couple of seasons Webster graduated to Colchester where he played for another three years before being released.

"It was a fantastic lifestyle, living and breathing football and training full-time, but when Colchester had money problems they cut a number of players and unfortunately I was one."

Despite staying in England for another season Webster was unable to secure a contract and decided to return to Sydney. "It is very difficult to try and get a contract," continued Webster.

"In the past twelve months there have been 700 or so players released from clubs due to the strain on finances and that means more competition for spots. While I haven't given up on getting a contract I thought it would be better for me to come back to Sydney and knuckle down to playing regular football with a senior team and improve my game."

St George coach Manny Spanoudakis swooped in for the talented playmaker when he came down for trials, at the invitation of Gabriel Mendez.

"Adrian had worked with Gabriel before and highly recommended him, so I felt he was definitely worth a look," said Spanoudakis.

"He proved what a capable player he was at the first session and we wasted no time getting his name on a contract. His high work rate and ability to beat a player are his major assets and he doesn't mind the tough stuff either, so it will be interesting to see how he adapts to the Premier League which has a reputation of being a very physical league."

Currently residing in Campbelltown, Webster is also looking for some work, so if you feel you can help him out, drop us a line at gregstock@optusnet.com.au and we'll pass on his details.

Milin Out

Some bad news for the Blue Devils with talented utility David Milin pulling the plug on his season due to work commitments.

Belconnen coach Chris Tanzey has wasted little time securing a replacement in the form of ex Canberra Cosmos star Toplica Popovich. Popovich was on the bench for first grade this week and although he didn't get a run, keep an eye out for him to push for a starting spot in the next few matches.



New Website

Soccer NSW has developed a new website, which is designed to be very simple and easy to use. The website is still accessed via the current web address www.soccernsw.com.au

To make a suggestion, please contact feedback@soccernsw.com.au

Last minute signings

Here are some late signings in the days leading up to the start of the Premier League season. The keys ones include Mirko Jurilj from Wollongong City to St. George, Tony Alilovic from St. George to A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt via Hurstville ZSC, Zarko



A.P.I.A. Leichhardt players share a pair of shorts

Glavas from MSC Liverpool to Bankstown City, joining Geoff Dwyer (ex Malaysia), Steve Liavas and Dimitri Nicolau from Stanmore Hawks.

At Henson Park, Greg Woodhouse has signed Todd MacRae and Stuart Banks from Manly as well as Archie 'the human haircut' Markopoulos from Fraser Park. Parramatta Eagles had Nathan Rivera and John Kelso back from AC United, while Shane Hammond and George Issa have found a home at Sydney Crescent Star.



Blacktown players share a moment of intimacy after scoring against Penrith



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Rich History of Sutherland Soccer

The Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association (SSJSFA) was formed in 1952. However, soccer had been played on a competitive basis within Sutherland Shire since at least 1929.

Social soccer was also widespread throughout the Sutherland Shire in the 1920's, when sports clubs of local factories would issue challenges to other factories and the matches would be played out in cup-like atmosphere on their picnic days.

On weekends any spare piece of grass would be marked out and crude posts erected so the honour of local hotels and church groups could be put on the line.

One of the earliest records of competitive soccer within the Shire was when three clubs played in a competition in the winter of 1929.

The teams were from Cronulla, Miranda and Gympie. With only 3 teams in the competition, each played the other 4 times throughout the year. The Cronulla team was very experienced, as they had been playing in the St George Association for a number of years. They won the Sutherland competition in 1929.

At the end of 1930 a fourth team, Sutherland United, was formed in Kareela and was based in an area known as Pommy Gully, which was bounded by The Boulevard and Bath Rd in the west, Bates Drive and the Princes Highway. Sutherland United played in the 1931 competition, which was once again won by Cronulla.

Pommy Gully was a well-known locality within the Shire - and aptly named because most of the residents in the streets had emigrated from England.

In 1932 the local competition was expanding rapidly to include another team from Pommy Gully. Teams from Waterfall and Helensburgh also joined the local competition in 1932. The Waterfall Club was a new club just starting out, and members had to clear trees by hand from bushland just south of the current railway station to make a field. The Helensburgh Club had been playing in the St George competition for many years, having been established in 1895. Cronulla again won the competition this year.

In 1934 the Georges River Bridge had been opened and Sutherland United now competed in the St George competition.

Competitive soccer within the Sutherland Shire ceased and it's unclear what happened to the original Clubs.

In 1936, club members of Sutherland United had differing opinions as to the direction of the Club. Several prominent members split and formed the Casuals Soccer Football Club.

The club fielded teams in the U16 and U18 divisions in the St George competition and played their home games in Millers Paddock, Sylvania Rd, Miranda.

The Casuals continued to play in the St George area until the competition was suspended due to World War II.

After World War II, there was a huge resurgence of interest in soccer in the Sutherland Shire and the Casuals were able to field strong teams in the St George competition across all age groups from Under 12 to Under 18, as well as First Grade, Reserves and Second Grade.

In 1947, The Casuals also moved their home ground to Le Haynes Paddock, Miranda, which is where the Sutherland Hospital stands today.

1948 was arguably the most successful year that the

Casuals had had in their brief history. Numbers continued to grow and teams were playing (and winning) in the St George Association as well the Canterbury Association and the Metropolitan Soccer League.

To top of a successful year, Casuals won the First Grade Metropolitan League. This meant automatic promotion to the NSW Soccer Association First Division.

Unfortunately, the Club was unable to meet the ground criteria and had to stay in the Metropolitan League. Relationships between the Casuals and the Sutherland Shire Council became strained because the Council would not make Sutherland Oval available, which would have met the First Division criteria.

Many thought that this setback would adversely affect the numbers playing soccer within the Shire. However, this was not the case and numbers and interest in the code continued to grow.

In 1949, a dispute with the St George Association over the loss of points against a Casuals Under 16 team was the catalyst that started the formation of an amateur soccer association within Sutherland Shire. A motion was proposed by George Swatbridge and carried that the Casuals executive committee approach the NSW Junior Soccer Board of Control for approval to organise a competition within Sutherland Shire.

The deputation consisted of George Swatbridge, Fred Hand, W Tanner and Allen Treddenick. A deputation was also present from the St George Association to oppose the Casuals request.

A lengthy and often heated meeting took place in the Queen Victoria Building, but it was eventually resolved that a separate association could be formed in the Sutherland Shire as it was considered a growth area.

During 1950-51 the Sutherland Association was to be reformed after it had been disbanded in 1930s. Office bearers were George Swatbridge, President, Fred Hand Secretary and Allen Treddenick, Treasurer. The first junior soccer club to form was Miranda Magpies.

Ten senior teams were now playing soccer in the Sutherland Shire. During 1951 approaches were made to the Sutherland Casuals committee for a separate junior association to be formed. The Casuals would become responsible for senior players. This strategy was readily adopted.

In 1952 competitions were held for boys in the Shire in the 12, 14 and 16 year age groups. In the same year the Casuals Club changed its name to 'Sutherland Shire Soccer Football Club'. They enrolled only players over the age of 16 years and were the Senior Club for the Shire, using the Junior Association as a nursery for players. This move proved a huge success.

In 1958 the Association's annual report made comment of the strong financial position that they were in with a bank balance of £32.

It was also reported that 6 clubs (Kirrawee, Como West, Magpies, Gympie Baptists and Crusaders), were affiliated with 38 teams and 524 players.

It was the beginning of a huge growth period.

The Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Association celebrated it's 50th anniversary last year.

It is now the largest association in Australia with 25 clubs, over 1,000 teams and 14,000 players, and the involvement of countless number of parents and friends who are coaches, managers and supporters.

Courtesy of the Sutherland Shire Junior Soccer Football Association website: www.ssjsfa.org



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Soccer NSW requires Coaches for

"The Regional Excellence Program"

A Player & Coach Development Pathway



Expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified coaches seeking to become involved in the Soccer NSW Regional Excellence Program.

The Regional Excellence Program is proposed to be implemented through the Sydney and Greater Sydney Metropolitan Areas, specifically:

- ◆ Central Coast
- ◆ Metropolitan East
- ◆ Metropolitan South
- ◆ Metropolitan North
- ◆ Metropolitan West
- ◆ Metropolitan Far South

The program will encompass the age groups of U11, U12, U13, U14 with coaching positions available for each.

A brief of the responsibilities involved with the coaching positions include -

- ◆ Coordination of development program within a defined geographical area.
- ◆ Coaching players and providing avenues for development and growth within the sport.
- ◆ Close liaison with Soccer NSW technical and administrative staff.
- ◆ Provide accurate reports and feedback on status of program and players within defined area.

Essential Criteria -

- ◆ Minimum qualification of a Senior Coaching License is required
- ◆ Demonstrated experience working with Elite Youth Soccer Players is essential
- ◆ Strong verbal and written communications and time management skills
- ◆ Computer literacy in MS Office and database applications.
- ◆ Flexibility in work hours

This position is a Child Related Position and will be subject to a Working With Children Check. Prohibited Persons need not apply.

For a position description and further information, please contact Linda Christie, Human Resources - 8814 4415. Email: linda@soccernsw.com.au Applications close on Monday 15 December 2003 - Applications should be clearly marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' and forwarded to Linda Christie, Human Resources, PO Box 6146, Baulkham Hills Business Centre NSW 2153.



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ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

After the week's break for Euro 2004 qualifying matches and some friendly games across Europe, the Serie A resumed normal service on the weekend.

However, whether the Serie A actually goes ahead smoothly for the rest of the season is another story.

Five clubs are threatening to go on strike over pay television money. It is these little clubs of the Serie A that are feeling hard done by in a deal which seems to favour the more famous clubs.

Last season the opening round of the competition was disrupted for the very same reason.

If these little clubs go on strike it may well cost them the three points from any matches they miss according to the Italian Federation.

It would be unlikely that any such strike will actually proceed. Sky Italia, owned by Rupert Murdoch, has promised to pay compensation to all clubs but only a 'realistic market price'.

The previous pay television company that had the soccer rights experienced financial difficulties and it basically left it all to Sky, which now has a pay television monopoly for soccer in Italy.

It looks like it will take some negotiating behind the scenes to smooth things over but nevertheless it is clear that Sky holds the trump cards.

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi will continue with his turnover policy at the great club for the rest of this season.

The policy involves rotating his players around thus giving maximum game time to the greatest number of players.

A lot of Juventus players didn't have the previous weekend off given that they were involved in fixtures across Europe including Italy's friendly games.

For the record the Azzurri lost 3-1 in Warsaw against Poland but then made amends with a 1-0 win over Romania at home in Ancona. The good news for Juventus fans is of course the recent return to fitness of Alex Del Piero. However, there are three others (Pessotto, Zalayeta and Conte) who are still only just returning from injury and in need of some game time.

In all matches so far this year Lippi has managed to use just about every player in his squad. The only ones to miss out are the second choice goalkeeper and a couple of younger unknown players.

Edgar Davids the midfield genius and CBulldog, of Juventus and The Netherlands may not be going to Roma after all as widely predicted. 30 year old Davids seems certain to leave the Turin-based giants but where exactly he will end up is still a mystery.

It now seems that Davids could well go to Inter given that their President, Massimo Moratti, has a high propensity to spend.

Another factor coming into play is the financial trouble that Roma now finds itself in. Davids at the moment is clearing just fewer than four million euros per year at Juventus.

However, given that the player market in Europe is not as lucrative as it once was and the fact that Roma is experiencing considerable financial restraint, it is unlikely that the club will be able to afford his services.

Furthermore, Inter's current coach Alberto Zaccheroni, who some say is only a caretaker until Roberto Mancini arrives next year, would love to have Davids.

If somehow Zaccheroni stays on at Inter beyond the end of the season, then Davids would fit ideally into his style of play as a left sided midfielder in a 3-4-3 formation.

According to some reports in the Italian media which are quoting the usual 'reliable' sources, Davids has bought an apartment in Milan. It is said that Davids visits the city of Milan on a regular basis.

Lets, not forget that he is also a former AC Milan player (1996/97) before he moved to Juventus. So the city of Milan is fairly familiar to him because it was his first Italian port of call after he left Ajax Amsterdam.

There is no doubt that Davids will have several clubs chasing him no matter what happens, once it is finally made official that that he will leave Juventus. Real Madrid is always linked to every big name player available and so too is Chelsea. It will be interesting to see where the brilliant, but fiery, midfielder ends up.

Meanwhile Sydney listeners can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news.

Champions Juventus moved two points clear at the top of Serie A after goals from David Trezeguet and Pavel Nedved gave them a 2-0 win at Modena on Saturday.

Inter Milan moved up to fourth after crushing Reggina 6-0 at the San Siro stadium, continuing their revival under new coach Alberto Zaccheroni before Tuesday's Champions League game with Arsenal.

Modena caused Marcello Lippi's side some problems in the early stages with some aggressive play in midfield but they created little in the way of real chances.

Juve's Alessandro Del Piero might have done better in the 28th minute when he was put free by Nedved after a swift counter-attack.

But the Italy international striker's shot was pushed wide at the near post by Modena keeper Marco Ballotta, who minutes later did well again to keep out a fierce shot from Trezeguet.

But Frenchman Trezeguet did put Juve ahead three minutes before halftime with a controversial goal from a quickly taken free kick.

Five minutes after the restart Juve made it 2-0 when Nedved cut in from the left and beat Ballotta with a low right-foot shot from 25 metres.

The best opportunity for the home side came midway through the second half when former Juve striker Nicola Amoruso found himself in a good position but Gianluigi Buffon parried his shot.

'You could say that Modena were the better side in the first half. Even though they didn't create much they closed down and fought well,' said Lippi.

Juve face Inter this week at their Delle Alpi stadium and will have taken note of the Milan side's hammering of woeful Reggina with goals from six different players.

Defender Fabio Cannavaro opened the scoring with the best effort of the night -- a stunning 25-metre drive for the seventh Serie A goal of his career.

Two minutes before the break Nigerian teenager Obafemi Martins doubled the advantage with a brilliant individual goal, working his way past four defenders before firing into the bottom corner.

Martins then set up Dutchman Andy van der Meide for the third in the 50th minute and 10 minutes later Spanish midfielder Francisco Farinos, who has won his place back under Zaccheroni, made it 4-0 after being put through by van der Meide.

Argentine substitute Julio Ricardo Cruz added the fifth with virtually his first touch of the ball, rounding Reggina keeper Emanuele Belardi and slotting into the empty net.

Christian Vieri, who had been whistled by some Inter fans earlier in the game, completed the rout in the 75th minute.

AS Roma romped to a 4-0 win at Bologna on Sunday to stay within two points of Serie A leaders Juventus but there were ugly scenes as Lazio beat Perugia 3-1 in a match in which four players were sent off.

Andriy Shevchenko scored both goals for European champions AC Milan in their 2-0 win at Chievo taking his season's tally to 10 goals.

Roma's Francesco Totti, Vincenzo Montella and Christian Panucci gave Fabio Capello's team a 3-0 lead at the break and Antonio Cassano added the fourth shortly after the restart.

Roma were at their devastating best against a Bologna side now facing the prospect of a fight against relegation.

Totti opened the scoring with a superb volley in the 15th minute before Montella made it 2-0, tapping home after Bologna keeper Gianluca Pagliuca parried a shot from Cassano.

The unfortunate Pagliuca again did well to keep out a header from Panucci but the Italy defender reacted quickly to hammer the ball home and give Roma a comfortable 3-0 halftime lead.

Cassano, who recently made his debut for Italy, wrapped up the win with a fine solo effort four minutes after the restart.

Capello was delighted with the performance, saying: "We gave little away and we created a lot of chances. To go far you need the kind of determination we showed today".

Lazio's win will be remembered not for excellent finishing but for the angry clashes that soured the final half hour.

Roberto Mancini's side went ahead through Dejan Stankovic just before the break but winless Perugia fought back with an excellent strike from Fabio Grosso in the 62nd minute.

That should have set up a rousing finale but instead the match descended into chaos.

First, Perugia's Souleymane Diamoutene was sent off by referee Cosimo Bolognino for a late challenge on Giuseppe Favalli in the 71st minute.

Both teams were then involved in clashes in the 84th minute with Perugia's Giovanni Ignoffo and Lazio's Sergio Conceicao dismissed after the fracas.

Three minutes later Bernardo Corradi put Lazio ahead with a beautifully struck shot from the edge of the area.

There was more off-the-ball incident as players and team officials squared up to each other on the edge of the pitch and Perugia coach Serse Cosmi was sent off.

In stoppage time Perugia's Marco di Loreto became the fourth player to see red after a wild challenge.

Simone Inzaghi wrapped up the victory with a third goal for Lazio after a delightful chip from 20 metres.

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini said he had only entered the field of play to try to calm his players.

'It all started after the first sending off, which I think was fair as it was an ugly foul. I didn't see the other incidents well.

'As for the scenes that followed, I was only trying to get my players away from the incidents," he said.

Perugia president Luciano Gaucci said the match was proof of bias against his club and described the referee as 'incapable'.

It was a straightforward three points for Milan in Verona as Ukrainian Shevchenko continued his prolific season.

The striker put Milan in front on the stroke of halftime with a thundering header as he burst into the area to meet a pinpoint cross from



Christian Vieri was booed during the game as he scored in Inter's six-nil thrashing against Reggina last week.

Gennaro Gattuso.

Five minutes after the break Rui Costa found Shevchenko unmarked at the back post and as the Chievo defence stood claiming offside he smashed home Milan's second.

Empoli moved away from the foot of the table as they pulled off a 1-0 win at home to Parma with an injury-time goal from Pasquale Foggia. It was their first success of the season sending the home crowd in raptures with the town of Empoli partying till the wee hours of the morning thanks to their first win of the year.

Ancona are now bottom after a 1-1 draw at home to Brescia.

FIXTURES

Sunday 30th November

Brescia	vs	Udinese
Juventus	vs	Inter
Milan	vs	Modena
Parma	vs	Chievo
Perugia	vs	Empoli
Reggina	vs	Bologna
Roma	vs	Lecce
Sampdoria	vs	Ancona
Siena	vs	Lazio

SERIE A

Empoli 1-0 Parma, Lazio 3-1 Perugia, Lecce 0-0 Sampdoria, Udinese 1-1 Siena, Ancona 1-1 Brescia, Bologna 0-4 Roma, Chievo 0-2 Milan, Modena 0-2 Juventus, Internazionale 6-0 Reggina

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Juventus	10	8	2	0	25	9	26
2Roma	10	7	3	0	22	3	24
3Milan	10	7	3	0	18	4	24
4Internazionale	10	5	4	1	17	5	19
5Lazio	10	6	1	3	18	13	19
6Parma	10	5	3	2	16	10	18
7Chievo	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
8Modena	10	4	2	4	10	10	14
9Sampdoria	10	3	4	3	9	10	13
10Udinese	10	3	3	4	13	14	12
11Siena	10	2	5	3	12	10	11
12Reggina	10	1	6	3	10	19	9
13Brescia	10	1	5	4	15	21	8
14Lecce	10	2	2	6	11	21	8
15Bologna	10	1	3	6	9	17	6
16Perugia	10	0	6	4	12	21	6
17Empoli	10	1	2	7	6	22	5
18Ancona	10	0	4	6	5	19	



Juventus' Pavel Nedved notched up his side's second goal in their two-nil win over Modena.



ENGLISH



It's as you were in the Premiership after Arsenal and Chelsea matched Manchester United's away victory at Blackburn in an exciting encounter between the pair.

A controversial draw for Charlton at Leicester consolidated their fourth place, whilst Newcastle's home victory over Manchester City saw the Magpies replace City in sixth. Birmingham remain fifth despite their comprehensive defeat at home to Arsenal. Gordon Strachan's Southampton were Chelsea's victims at St Mary's.

At the bottom it was a case of different boss, same story as Leeds recorded a fifth consecutive Premiership defeat - Bolton the latest victors at troubled Elland Road.

Everton moved out of the relegation places by beating fellow strugglers Wolves at Goodison and Liverpool's faint championship ambitions are surely now quashed after a nil-nil draw at Middlesbrough.

Manchester United topped the Premiership, albeit for three hours, after Ruud van Nistelrooy's great week continued at Ewood Park this lunchtime. Van Nistelrooy, who netted a hat-trick for Holland against Scotland in mid-week, scored his first goal for United from open play in nearly two months in the first-half of a match in which neither side really stamped their authority.

Brazilian Kleberson added a second before the break. Brett Emerton pulled one back for Blackburn but Rovers were unable to build on it in the second-half and the champions never really looked like surrendering their lead.

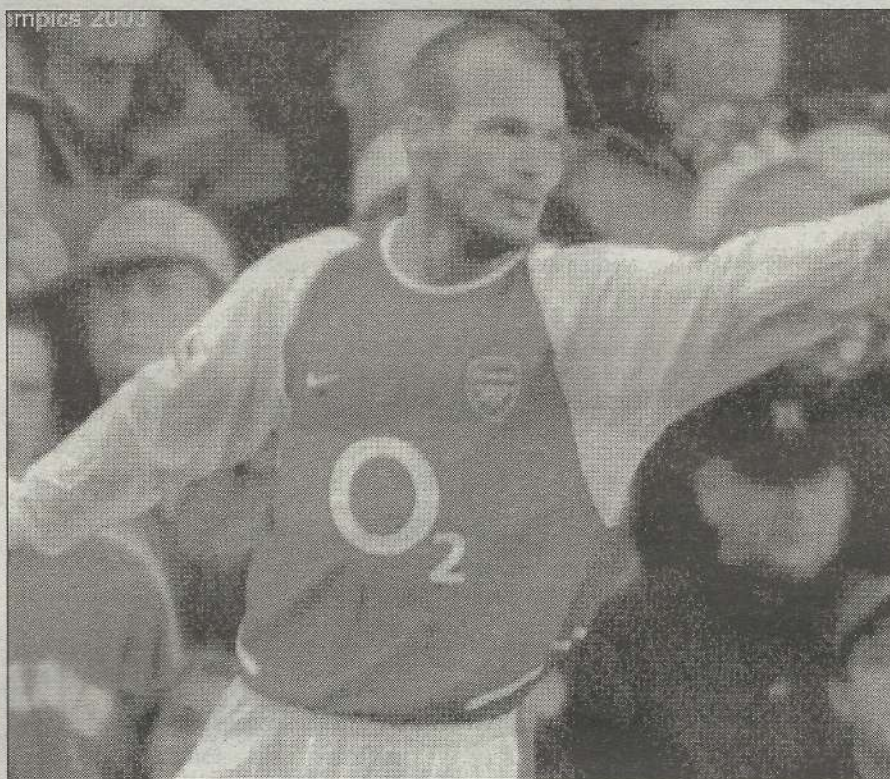
Arsenal were able to regain top spot despite several absentees due to the fall out from the 'Battle of Old Trafford'. Arsene Wenger was still able to field a side that made a mockery of Birmingham City's reputation for defensive strength.

A third minute goal from Freddie Ljungberg gave Arsenal a lead that Birmingham rarely threatened, despite their industry. Two late strikes from Pires and Bergkamp sealed the win, with Henry the provider for both goals. Arsenal have now set a new Premiership record by remaining unbeaten for the first 13 matches of the campaign.

Gordon Strachan had to make do without in form striker James Beattie for the visit of Chelsea and will feel hard done by not to have taken something from a tight game.

Mario Melchiot scored the only goal of the game immediately after half-time in a match that was largely played in driving rain. Late pressure from the Saints produced a couple of half chances late on but Kevin Phillips in particular was guilty of wasting them.

Paulo Di Canio was at the centre of controversy in the game between Leicester and high flying Charlton. With the score at 1-0 in Leicester's favour, thanks to a 38th minute strike from Les



Fredrik Ljungberg celebrates scoring for Arsenal FC against Birmingham City FC

Ferdinand, and with less than 10 minutes left on the clock, the volatile Italian angered home players and fans alike with a piece of theatrics to earn his side a penalty, and ultimately a share of the points.

Despite furious protests ringing around the ground Di Canio stepped up to convert the spot kick himself. Alan Curbishley then substituted his player as tensions threatened to boil over in the game's closing minutes.

Newcastle's season continues to improve with another solid home victory, this time dispatching Kevin Keegan's Manchester City by three goals to nil. A double from Alan Shearer - his 11th and 12th of the season - and one from Shola Ameobi was enough to take the Toon up to sixth place, just three points behind Charlton who occupy the fourth Champions League spot.

At Elland Road, new boss Eddie Gray watched his side continue where they had left off with a fifth straight defeat. Two goals in the space of 90 seconds saw Bolton take the points with strikes from Stelios Giannakopoulos and Kevin Davies.

All this came in the first 20 minutes and despite a radical change in formation for the Yorkshire side in the second half - playing with three up front - they were unable to break down a stubborn Bolton side. Leeds are now three points adrift of safety and Gray, or whoever comes in to replace him, has a

hell of a job on his hands to turn things round.

Also at the bottom, the visit of Wolves to Goodison Park saw a meeting of two sides in the bottom three places. Both teams have found goals hard to come by this season but David Moyes' men got two inside the first 20 minutes and the score remained unchanged until the end.

Thomasz Radzinski and Kevin Kilbane were on the score sheet for the Toffees as Everton moved out of the relegation zone leaving Wolves with only Leeds below them.

The only goalless game of the day was played out at the Riverside Stadium where Liverpool became the fourth side in succession to draw a blank against Middlesbrough. Liverpool now stand 15 points behind leaders Arsenal and are effectively out of the championship race, whilst Middlesbrough continue to make strides after a poor start to this Premiership campaign.

Meanwhile Republic of Ireland striker Robbie Keane helped Tottenham Hotspur FC recover from being a goal down to inflict defeat on visiting Aston Villa FC at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

The Premiership's only Sunday game featured two teams struggling at the wrong end of the table - but Keane's 81st-minute winner ensured the London club climbed up four places to 12th.

After a goalless first half, Sweden's Marcus Allback gave David O'Leary's Villa a 66th-minute lead with a well-taken header - but 20-year-old Rohan Ricketts equalised for the home side 12 minutes later with a low drive.



FIXTURES

Saturday 29th
November

Arsenal	vs	Fulham
Aston Villa	vs	Southampton
Blackburn	vs	Tottenham
Bolton	vs	Everton
Charlton	vs	Leeds
Chelsea	vs	Man Utd
Liverpool	vs	Birmingham
Man City	vs	Middlesbrough
Portsmouth	vs	Leicester
W'hampton	vs	Newcastle

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man. United 2-1 Blackburn, Middlesbrough 0-0 Liverpool, Newcastle 3-0 Man. City, Southampton 0-1 Chelsea, Birmingham, 0-3 Arsenal, Everton 2-0, Wolves Leeds 0-2, Bolton Leicester 1-1 Charlton, Aston Villa 1 - Tottenham 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	13	10	3	0	28	10	33
Chelsea	13	10	2	1	27	9	32
Man. United	13	10	1	2	25	8	31
Charlton	13	6	4	3	20	16	22
Birmingham	13	5	5	3	11	11	20
Newcastle	13	5	4	4	19	18	19
Fulham	12	5	3	4	22	18	18
Man. City	13	5	3	5	22	18	18
Liverpool	13	5	3	5	18	14	18
Southampton	13	4	5	4	10	8	17
Portsmouth	12	4	3	5	17	16	15
Tottenham	13	4	5	4	13	17	15
Middlesbrough	13	4	3	6	11	15	15
Bolton	13	3	6	4	11	19	15
Everton	13	3	4	6	15	17	13
Leicester	13	3	3	7	20	22	12
Blackburn	13	3	2	8	18	24	11
Villa	13	2	5	6	10	17	11
Wolves	13	2	4	7	8	26	10
Leeds	13	2	2	9	11	33	8

FIRST DIVISION

West Brom 0 Reading 0, Crewe 3 Sunderland 0, Millwall 0 Derby 0, Watford 0 West Ham 0, Stoke 1 Bradford 0, Ipswich 3 Sheff Utd 0, Preston 0 Norwich 0, Wigan 2 Nottm Forest 2, Wimbledon 0 Cardiff 1, Burnley 1 Rotherham 1, Walsall 0 Crystal Palace 0, Coventry 2 Gillingham 2

	P	W	PTS
West Brom	18	11	36
Norwich	19	9	35
Wigan Athletic	19	12	34
Sheff Utd	19	8	34
Sunderland	19	7	32
Ipswich Town	19	9	31
Reading	19	6	31
Cardiff City	18	14	30
West Ham Utd	18	7	29
Preston	19	5	28
Millwall	20	2	28
Crewe	19	-2	27
Nottm Forest	19	6	26
Walsall	19	2	24
Watford	20	-3	24
Coventry City	18	0	23
Gillingham	20	-9	23
Burnley	19	-8	21
Stoke City	18	-4	20
Derby County	20	-13	19
Crystal Palace	18	-9	18
Rotherham Utd	19	-14	17
Bradford City	19	-13	14
Wimbledon	19	-23	13

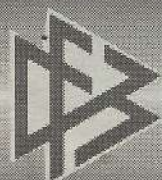
SECOND DIVISION

Brentford 1 Grimsby 3, Bristol City 2 Barnsley 1, Chesterfield 1 Oldham 1, Notts County 1 Brighton 2, Peterborough 0 Blackpool 1, Plymouth 2 Hartlepool 0, Rushden 4 Colchester 0, Sheff Wed 0 Luton 0, Stockport 3, Bournemouth 2, Swindon 1 QPR 1, Tranmere 1 Port Vale 0, Wrexham 0 Wycombe 0

	P	W	PTS
QPR	19	18	35
Plymouth	19	17	34
Barnsley	19	3	32
Brighton	19	6	31
Colchester	19	-1	31
Bristol City	19	9	30
Port Vale	19	1	30
Hartlepool	19	6	28
Swindon Town	19	5	28
Bournemouth	19	4	28
Wrexham	19	2	28
Rushden	19	3	27
Luton Town	19	-1	27
Blackpool	19	-3	27
Grimsby Town	19	-2	26
Brentford	19	-6	26
Sheff Wed	19	0	25
Oldham	19	0	23
Tranmere	19	-9	22
Stockport	19	-8	19
Peterborough	19	-6	17
Notts County	19	-13	16
Chesterfield	19	-12	13
Wycombe	19	-13	12



Action from last week's match between Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers



German Bundesliga



FC Kaiserslautern scored four second-half goals, including a hat-trick from Germany striker Miroslav Klose, to turn a 2-0 deficit against Hertha HSC Berlin into a resounding 4-2 Bundesliga victory on Sunday.

Nando Rafael had given Hertha a 37th-minute lead which was doubled thanks to Aleksander Knave's own goal on the stroke of half-time - and it looked as though the visitors were on the way to recording their third win in four league games. But Kaiserslautern were a force to be reckoned with after the interval.

It took just two minutes of the second half for Klose to find the net and his equaliser came with 21 minutes still to play. Then, after Cameroon defender Bill Tchato scored his first goal for the club to put Kaiserslautern ahead on 77 minutes, Klose completed his remarkable hat-trick to wrap up the scoring.

Klose's heroics helped Kaiserslautern climb two places to 12th while disappointing Hertha remain just one point above the relegation zone. In the day's other game, an 81st-minute goal from



Samuel Kuffour (left) and Hasan Salihamidzic during FC Bayern München's derby win

Wilfried Sanou was enough to give SC Freiburg a 1-0 victory against struggling Eintracht Frankfurt.

FC Bayern München stayed in touch with the German Bundesliga leaders after a 1-0 derby win against TSV 1860 München, while VfB Stuttgart kept their unbeaten start going.

In a tight first half, Roy Makaay put Bayern ahead on 34 minutes. Both sides played the last half-hour with ten men after 1860's Andreas Görlitz and Bayern's Hasan Salihamidzic were dismissed, and the title-holders only held on for their seventh-consecutive victory against their fellow Olympiastadion-based outfit after Oliver Kahn made a late save from Benjamin Lauth.

Bayern are fourth, but still six points adrift of leaders Stuttgart, who beat Hannover 96 3-1. Imre

Szabics opened the scoring just before the half-hour for Stuttgart, and 12 minutes from time Silvio Meissner doubled the lead. Thomas Brdaric pulled one back, but Meissner scored again in added time to further cheer the home fans who had already heard that Andreas Hinkel is to sign a contract extension.

However, Bayer 04 Leverkusen lost ground on Stuttgart after they were held 2-2 at fifth-placed BV Borussia Dortmund, who even led 2-0 after goals on 29 and 32 minutes from Salvatore Gambino. But Oliver Neuville soon pulled one back, and although Leverkusen had Diego Placente dismissed a quarter-hour from the end after two yellow cards, Marko Babic equalised with 13 minutes left.

SV Werder Bremen took advantage of Leverkusen's slip to move up to second, two points behind Stuttgart, as they beat VfL Bochum 1848 3-1. FC Schalke 04, who have signed Ailton for the 2004/05 season, remain in the bottom half after a 1-0 home defeat by FC Hansa Rostock. VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach secured their second win of the season with a 3-1 victory at VfL Wolfsburg, meaning 1. FC Köln remain bottom after losing 1-0 at home to Hamburger SV.

Kaiserslautern 4-2 Hertha, Freiburg 1-0 Eintracht, Dortmund 2-2, Leverkusen, Schalke 0-1 Hansa, Wolfsburg 1-3 Mönchengladbach, 1860 München 0-1 Bayern, Köln 0-1 Hamburg, Stuttgart 3-1 Hannover, Bremen 3-1 Bochum

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Stuttgart	13	10	3	0	22	3	33
2 Bremen	13	10	1	2	37	17	31
3 Leverkusen	13	9	3	1	28	10	30
4 Bayern	13	8	3	2	30	16	27
5 Dortmund	13	7	2	4	25	19	23
6 Bochum	13	6	3	4	25	16	21
7 Wolfsburg	13	6	0	7	26	26	18
8 Freiburg	13	5	3	5	19	22	18
9 1860 München	13	5	2	6	13	17	17
10 Hannover	13	4	3	6	22	31	15
11 Hamburg	13	4	3	6	15	25	15
12 Kaiserslautern	13	5	2	6	17	22	14
13 Schalke	13	3	5	5	15	20	14
14 Hansa	13	3	3	7	17	21	12
15 Hertha	13	2	5	6	12	25	11
16 Mönchengladbach	13	2	4	7	11	19	10
17 Eintracht	13	2	2	9	9	20	8
18 Köln	13	2	1	10	9	23	7

FIXTURES

Saturday 29th November

Hannover	vs	Freiburg
E.Frankfurt	vs	Wolfsburg
M'gladbach	vs	Kaiserslautern
Hertha Berlin	vs	Schalke
Hansa Rostock	vs	B.Dortmund
B.Leverkusen	vs	1860 Munich
B.Munich	vs	FC Cologne
Hamburg SV	vs	Werder Bremen
Bochum	vs	VfB Stuttgart



Spanish Primera Liga



Real Madrid CF defeated Albacete Balompié 2-1 on Sunday to bounce back from their 4-1 defeat by Sevilla FC and go top of the Spanish Primera División on goal difference.

Zinedine Zidane clinched a hard-earned victory for Madrid - who face Olympique de Marseille in the UEFA Champions League on Wednesday - when he headed in a corner from Santiago Solari despite being surrounded by a clutch of defenders.

David Beckham had opened the scoring eight minutes before the break, firing in a fierce shot from just outside the area which left goalkeeper Carlos Roa with no chance. The lead was nevertheless short-lived because two minutes later the away side equalised, Libero Parri tapping in at the left-hand post after a cross from Carlos Aranda.

Two goals from Mista were not enough to secure victory for Valencia CF, who would have gone to the summit had they defeated Real Murcia CF on their travels but in the end had to be content with a 2-2



Jose Mollina starred under the sticks for Deportivo La Coruna and saved a crucial penalty against Real Betis last week.

draw. Ricardo Richi had levelled for the home side and Michel briefly gave them the lead in the 53rd minute.

The result also meant RC Deportivo La Coruña, rivals of AEK Athens FC in the Champions League on Tuesday, stayed in second place despite only managing a scoreless draw against Real Betis Balompié in torrential conditions in Seville on Saturday evening. Betis enjoyed the better of the match and forced a penalty in the 26th minute, which Fernando Fernández was unable to put away. The away side

had another opportunity to take all three points late in the second period but Dani's effort was disallowed.

In a match between two UEFA Cup hopefuls, two players who have both represented FC Barcelona, Juan Riquelme - loaned out at the start of the season - and Sonny Anderson, engineered a deserved win for Villarreal CF in their 2-1 defeat of the Catalan team.

José Mari scored first when he stroked his effort just inside the post in the 41st minute after a corner from Riquelme. It remained 1-0 until Patrick Kluijver levelled with just under 20 minutes to go, following up after José Reina spilled a shot. But Anderson collected the winner in the final minute, directing a spectacular diving header into the far corner.

Also on Saturday, Real Sociedad de Fútbol - opponents of Olympiacos CFP in midweek - defeated RCD Mallorca 1-0 with a first-half goal from Samuel Eto'o. The Cameroonian international prevailed when he only had goalkeeper Sander Westerveld to beat.

RC Celta de Vigo's disappointing domestic season continued, with the Galician club going down 2-0 to Athletic Club Bilbao at home. Second-half goals from Jesús Lacruz and Andoni Iraola did the damage. Celta will look to put the defeat behind them before Wednesday's match in the Champions League against Club Brugge KV.

Real Zaragoza were delighted to collect three points on their travels in a 2-1 defeat of Real Racing Club Santander, Rubio Alvaro and Fernando Soriano cancelling out César Rebosio's own goal. Real Valladolid CF inflicted a first defeat in five games on Club Atlético de Madrid, winning 3-1. Kiki

Musampa gave the away team a promising start but Ariza Makukula, Víctor Zapata and Francisco Sousa turned the match on its head.

Elsewhere, Cyril Domoraud's goal in the last moments of normal time ensured RCD Espanyol stole a narrow 1-0 win against Sevilla FC while Málaga CF and CA Osasuna could only manage a goalless draw.

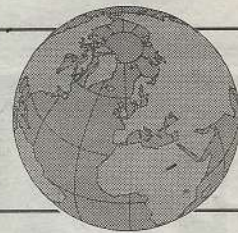
Celta 0-2 Athletic, Espanyol 1-0 Sevilla, Racing 1-2 Zaragoza, Valladolid 3-1 Atlético, Málaga 0-0 Osasuna, Real Madrid 2-1 Albacete, Murcia 2-2 Valencia Betis 0-0 Deportivo, Real Sociedad 0-1 Mallorca, Villarreal 2-1 Barcelona

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Real Madrid	12	8	2	2	26	14	26
2 Deportivo	12	8	2	2	21	9	26
3 Valencia	12	7	3	2	24	9	24
4 Athletic	12	6	2	4	15	12	20
5 Osasuna	12	5	4	3	13	9	19
6 Barcelona	12	5	4	3	17	13	19
7 Atlético	12	6	1	5	15	16	19
8 Valladolid	12	5	3	4	18	20	18
9 Villarreal	12	4	5	3	13	13	17
10 Racing	12	5	2	5	16	14	17
11 Málaga	12	5	2	5	13	14	17
12 Sevilla	12	3	6	3	16	15	15
13 Zaragoza	12	4	3	5	11	12	15
14 Betis	12	3	5	4	14	15	14
15 Mallorca	12	4	2	6	14	21	14
16 Real Sociedad	12	3	4	5	13	17	13
17 Celta	12	2	5	5	14	17	11
18 Albacete	12	3	0	9	11	18	9
19 Murcia	12	1	5	6	10	22	8
20 Espanyol	12	2	2	8	9	23	8

FIXTURES

Sunday 30th November

Murcia	vs	R Sociedad
Mallorca	vs	Betis
Deportivo	vs	Villarreal
Barcelona	vs	Valladolid
Atlético	vs	Málaga
Osasuna	vs	R Madrid
Albacete	vs	Espanyol
Sevilla	vs	Celta
Athletic	vs	Racing
Valencia	vs	Zaragoza



Dutch Eredivisie

Mateja Kezman celebrated his return from suspension with two goals as PSV Eindhoven fought back from 2-0 down at NEC Nijmegen to win 3-2 and move up to second in the Dutch first division on Saturday.

AZ Alkmaar dropped a spot after an astonishing 5-1 home defeat against Roda JC Kerkrade, while Feyenoord beat relegation strugglers Vitesse Arnhem 3-0.

PSV are now second with 27 points, one behind Ajax Amsterdam who entertain Heerenveen on Sunday. AZ are third on 25, one clear of Feyenoord who are at Ajax next week.

Former PSV midfielder Bjorn van der Doelen opened the scoring for Nijmegen after four minutes and Frank Demouge made it 2-0 six minutes later from close range.

John de Jong pulled one back in the 16th minute but in the second half it was Kezman, back after a three-match suspension, who struck twice in two minutes to clinch the points.

AZ Alkmaar came down to earth with a bump with Roda JC stretching clear in the first 20 minutes of the second half after two goals from Yannis Anastasiou and one by Ivan Vicelich.

Robin van Persie opened the scoring for Feyenoord against Vitesse on 22 minutes, latching on to a long ball from Patrick

Paauwe, who made it 2-0 a minute before halftime, with a close range header.

Ten minutes from time Dirk Kuijt settled the match with his seventh goal of the season.

Due to communication problems, ABSW were unable to print Sunday's Dutch match reports.

Stay tuned for next week with our normal full wrap up on the best leagues from across Europe packed with photos and the best stats for your weekly fix on what's going on in the domestic front abroad.



Mateja Kezman celebrated his return from suspension with two goals as PSV Eindhoven beat NEC Nijmegen three-two.

Ethniki Katigoria

Olympiacos CFP had to come from behind to hold arch-rivals Panathinaikos FC and stay top of the Alpha Ethniki.

Panathinaikos trailed home side Olympiacos by two points prior to kick off, and needed victory to overhaul a side chasing their eighth consecutive league title. And the visitors went in ahead at half-time, having gone ahead on 36 minutes through Cypriot international striker Michalis Konstantinou.

However, Olympiacos, who pipped Panathinaikos to the title on head-to-head record last season, were not beaten and levelled on the hour with a goal from Ieroklis Stolidis. Both sides can now focus on midweek UEFA Champions League fixtures. Olympiacos welcome Real Sociedad de Fútbol on Tuesday

needing a win to stay in contention for a last 16 place, while the next day Panathinaikos visit Manchester United FC with a UEFA Cup berth now their best hope.

AEK Athens FC, who themselves must beat RC Deportivo La Coruña on Tuesday to retain any hope of a UEFA Cup campaign this season, are up to third after beating Proodeftiki FC 3-0. Dimitrios Nalitzis opened the scoring on 35 minutes, before Yiannis Okkas and Konstantinos Katsouranis added to the lead after the break.

Sunday's matches saw Kallithea draw two-all with Paniliakos, Iomikos smashed Akrotiris four-one, Panionios beat Egaleo two-one, OFI defeated Halkidonia two-one while PAOK suffered a massive loss to Xanthi tw-nil.



Michalis Konstantinou put Panathinaikos into the lead in their draw with Olympiacos.

Kallithea 2-2 Paniliakos, Ionikos 4-1 Akrotiris Aris 2-1 Panionios, Egaleo 2-1 Halkidonia, OFI 1-2 Xanthi, PAOK 2-0 Iraklis, AEK 3-0 Proodeftiki, Olympiacos 1-1 Panathinaikos

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Olympiacos	11	8	2	1	26	7	26
2Panathinaikos	11	7	3	1	18	7	24
3PAOK	11	7	2	2	18	9	23
4Egaleo	11	7	2	2	13	6	23
5AEK	11	6	3	2	26	13	21
6Panionios	11	3	6	2	13	13	15
7OFI	11	4	2	5	12	20	14
8Halkidonia	11	3	5	3	13	14	14
9Aris	11	3	3	5	11	14	12
10Xanthi	11	3	3	5	12	15	12
11Paniliakos	11	2	5	4	16	17	11
12Iraklis	11	2	4	5	11	14	10
13Kallithea	11	1	6	4	17	19	9
14Ionikos	11	2	2	7	12	20	8
15Proodeftiki	11	1	5	5	6	16	8
16Akrotiris	11	1	3	7	10	30	6

Scottish Premier League

Champions Rangers kept in touch with leaders Celtic in the Scottish premier league on Saturday when three goals in the last 13 minutes gave them a 3-0 home victory over 10-man Aberdeen.

Stephen Hughes and Dane Peter Lovenkrands (twice) scored to cut Celtic's lead back to five points at the top of the table after they had thrashed Dundee United 5-1 earlier on Saturday.

Chris Sutton scored a hat-trick for unbeaten Celtic, who have 37 points from 13 games. Rangers have 32, nine clear of third-placed Hearts who play neighbours Hibernian on Sunday.

Aberdeen's hopes of a win

fited from home defender Chris Innes' mistake to score on 32 minutes, but they ripped the heart out of a mediocre United with a three-goal flurry in six minutes after halftime.

Larsson nodded home the second goal on 52 minutes from Stilian Petrov's corner before Sutton tapped in the third four minutes later after goalkeeper Paul Gallacher had failed to get hold of Larsson's lob.

The Swede then rifled home a blistering effort on 58 minutes with United's defence in a sham-bolic state.

A mistake by Didier Agathe allowed the home side's Jim McIntyre to score with 14 minutes



Celtic star Chris Sutton shown celebrating his hat-trick against Dundee United

probably ended when young defender Alexander Diamond was sent off for fouling Shota Arveladze in the 55th minute.

Stephen Hughes broke Aberdeen's resistance with a 77th minute header before Peter Lovenkrands made the scoreline more convincing with two goals in the dying minutes.

Celtic's destruction of Dundee, which also included two goals for Sweden's Henrik Larsson, will give them a boost for their Champions League match against Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

'The players are playing very well at the moment,' said Celtic manager Martin O'Neill. 'The second-half was great for us and we played very well indeed after weathering plenty of uncomfortable moments in the first-half.'

Celtic were fortunate to be ahead at halftime as Sutton bene-

remaining, but Sutton tucked away an 81st penalty after he had been felled by a clumsy Alan Archibald tackle to complete the rout.

Sutton also scored three goals in the 5-0 drubbing of Kilmarnock on November 1 but Kilmarnock have recovered well since that loss and enjoyed a fine 4-2 win at winless bottom club Partick Thistle on Saturday.

Dunfermline beat Dundee 2-0 to compound a miserable few days for the visiting team, who local media reports suggest will go into administration on Monday with club debts of over £10 million.

Fourth-placed Motherwell drew 1-1 with Livingston in Saturday's other game.

On Sunday Hearts moved to within six points of second-placed Rangers after two own goals gave them a 2-0 victory over Hibernian in the Edinburgh derby.

Hearts 2-0 Hibernian, Rangers 3-0 Aberdeen, Dunfermline 2-0 Dundee, Partick 2-4 Kilmarnock, Motherwell 1-1 Livingston, Dundee United 1-5 Celtic.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Celtic	13	12	1	0	43	4	37
2Rangers	13	10	2	1	36	11	32
3Hearts	13	8	2	3	21	15	26
4Motherwell	12	5	4	3	15	13	19
5Dunfermline	12	5	3	4	12	15	18
6Livingston	13	4	5	4	14	14	17
7Dundee	13	4	4	5	14	15	16
8Hibernian	13	4	4	5	14	19	16
9Kilmarnock	13	4	2	7	18	30	14
10Dundee United	13	2	4	7	10	26	10
11Aberdeen	13	2	1	10	9	27	7
12Partick	13	0	2	11	11	28	2



Euro 2004 Finale

HOLLAND 6
SCOTLAND 0

(Holland 6-1 Agg win)

Ruud van Nistelrooij fired a timely hat-trick as the Netherlands booked their ticket to UEFA EURO 2004™ with a breathtaking display of attacking football in Amsterdam.

AFC Ajax midfielder Wesley Sneijder opened the scoring with a thunderous 13th-minute strike before teeing up André Ooijer and Van Nistelrooij to give the Dutch a two-goal advantage at the break. Two more Van Nistelrooij goals either side of Frank de Boer's header killed off the game as a contest and ended any lingering hopes Scotland had of a comeback.

In the first leg Berti Vogts' side had bravely survived wave after wave of Dutch attacks to give themselves more than a fighting chance of progressing to Portugal but somehow - amidst the cat-calling and cacophony of the Netherlands camp - Dick Advocaat's side found enough spirit to completely overwhelm the Scottish resistance.

As the Netherlands' confidence steadily grew, it was Van Nistelrooij's turn to test the Scottish resolve - but his low shot was well held by Rab Douglas. With incessant pressure from the Dutch it seemed only a matter of time before the Scottish defence would crumble. The inevitable goal finally arrived thanks to a wonderful piece of skill from Wesley Sneijder, who turned Scotland captain Barry Ferguson in midfield before sending a stinging drive beyond the hapless Douglas to level the tie on aggregate.

If Scotland thought they had weathered the Dutch storm, they could not have been more wrong - Sneijder turned the game back in the home side's

favour, setting up two carbon-copy goals from set-pieces on the left-hand side. The first arrived from a whipped-in cross which left Douglas flapping on 32 minutes - allowing Ooijer to coolly steer home. The second, five minutes later, was another dangerous ball which Van Nistelrooij converted with a towering header.

Scotland had a chance to haul themselves back into contention one minute before the half-time interval, but Wilkie's header was pushed wide by Edwin van der Sar - and the visitors barely threatened again. After the break, the Dutch continued



Ruud Delight as the Dutch striker celebrates his hat-trick against the Scots.

where they had left off, with Van Nistelrooij striking the killer fourth in the 51st minute. The Manchester United FC forward coolly lifted the ball over Douglas after a swift exchange with Rafael van der Vaart.

It was substitute Frank de Boer who turned in Sneijder's corner to make it five on 65 minutes and the Netherlands were now playing the kind of fantasy football we have come to expect of a side brimming with talented individuals. It was not long before Van Nistelrooij completed his hat-trick, turning in Van der Meyde's cross from the right. The goal capped a display which marked a perfect riposte by the Dutch to a week of turmoil and controversy.

TURKEY 2
LATVIA 2

(Latvia 3-2 Agg win)

Latvia qualified for a major international football tournament for the first time as goals from Juris Laizans and Maris Verpakovskis enabled the visitors to come from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Turkey in Istanbul, progressing to the finals of UEFA EURO 2004™ 3-2 on aggregate.

Latvia players and their coach Aleksandrs Starkovs celebrate their historic victory

The visitors came to defend a 1-0 lead from the first leg in Riga, given to them by Verpakovskis's 29th-minute goal, and welcomed back key defenders Dzintars Zirnis and Mihails Zemlinskis after suspension, although Olegs Blagonadezdins and Valentins Lobanovs were missing through injury and suspension respectively. They were further boosted by the inclusion of Marians Pahars, a year after his last competitive match, on the substitute's bench.

The home side began the game in positive fashion, pressing the visitors back as they sought an early goal. Tümer Metin twice had low shots easily saved by goalkeeper Aleksandrs Kolinko, but either side of his efforts, the home side took the lead in the 20th minute. Nihat Kahveci regained possession on the left of the Latvian penalty area before turning and hitting a cross towards İlhan Mansiz, whose unstoppable left-foot volley from the edge of the area gave Kolinko no chance.

Buoyed by the goal, the home side pressed forward, but it was Latvia who looked the more likely scorers in the remainder of the second half. Four minutes after İlhan's strike, Juris Laizans linked well with Verpakovskis and his prodded effort from the edge of the area forced a sprawling Omer to turn the ball behind. Andrejs Rubins also came close,

running from inside his own half before seeing his shot deflected behind.

As in the first half, Latvia weathered the early storm and gradually came more into the match, as first Laizans then Rubins both shot wide. Just as it seemed the visitors were beginning to threaten, however, Turkey made it 2-0. A fine crossfield pass found Gökdeniz Karadeniz and the substitute broke down the right before crossing low for Hakan Sükür to turn into the net.



Latvia created history by taking part in their first ever European competition.

The Turkish celebrations had not died down when Latvia drew level on aggregate but, crucially, ahead on away goals. The visitors won a free-kick down the left and Laizans swung the ball in low. A succession of attackers missed the ball and, unsighted, Omer was unable to prevent it from nestling in the corner of the net.

The home side nearly responded immediately, as Hakan Sükür's thumping shot hit the crossbar, but 12 minutes from time their hopes suffered what proved to be a critical blow.

A long ball over the top of the defence set Verpakovskis clear, and the striker held off Bülent to lift the ball over Omer and cap an extraordinary night for the away side.

SLOVENIA 0
CROATIA 1

(Croatia 1-0 Agg win)

Croatia emerged from Slovenia with a 1-0 victory on the night and on aggregate to reach UEFA EURO 2004™ via the play-offs, and dash the ambitions of their neighbours.

The visitors were reduced to ten men on 59 minutes when Igor Tudor received his second yellow card, but they had dominated up to then and it was not long before Dado Pršo had scored his second goal of the tie, giving Croatia a lead they rarely looked like losing.

Knowing they had to score to prevent an away-goals exit, Croatia attacked from the off. On seven minutes they came close to breaking the deadlock as S'okota struck a shot from the edge of the box only for it to rebound off the post. Niko Kovac then shot over from a similar position, but gradually Slovenia tightened matters in midfield.

It was still the away team who had the greater fluency despite their many changes from Saturday, with Aleksander Knavs busy in the home defence and Slovenian captain Miran Pavlin having to work tirelessly in midfield. Darijo Srna was proving a potent threat on the Croatian right, but was denied the space to send in a truly incisive cross.

Only towards the end of the half did Croatia force more clear-cut chances. Two minutes from half-time, a Rapaic corner was headed on goal and saved by Mladen Dabanic, but from only five metres out Rosso's snap-shot went over the bar. Having not had a shot in the first half, Slovenia

introduced Adem Kapic to reinvigorate their midfield during the break.

However, Croatia had the better of the early second-half exchanges, only to find the Slovenian defence determined not to let them through. On 59 minutes, though, the visitors were reduced to ten men as Igor Tudor's foul on Amir Karic earned the Juventus FC man a red card.

But if Slovenia thought they might take the initiative, within two minutes they were behind. Just as in Zagreb, it was the in-form Pršo who was on target, as he ran on to S'okota's through-ball and poked the ball past Dabanic. Even after the goal, Croatia kept pushing, knowing another would leave Slovenia needing to score three. Substitute Ermin Rakovic did have an effort on goal for the home



Croatian players celebrate their victory over rivals Slovenia last week.

team on the 73-minute mark, but he headed Zlatko Zahovic's cross wide.

Time was ebbing away for Slovenia, and despite a late push aided by the advancing Dabanic, they could not prise open the visiting defence and it is Croatia who booked their passage to Portugal.

In other Euro 2004 Qualifiers

*Wales 0 - Russia 1 Evseev 22' (Russia win one-nil on aggregate)

*Norway 0 - Spain 3 Raul 34', Vicente 49', Etxeberria 57' (Spain win five-one on aggregate).

EURO 2004 FINALISTS

*Portugal - hosts
*Bulgaria
*Croatia
*Czech Republic
*Denmark
*England
*France
*Germany
*Greece
*Italy
*Latvia
*Netherlands
*Russia
*Spain
*Sweden
*Switzerland

Final Draw for Portugal 2004 was done last Monday, due to deadlines ABSW were unable to print them however a full list of what to expect next year will be present in next week's edition.



Russia's hero: Evseev shown celebrating his nation's sole goal against Wales.



Spanish skipper Raul shut critics mouths last week with their Euro 2004 finals placing.

Liverpool 2003



BACK ROW (L-R) Michael Owen, Stéphane Henchoz, Jerzy Dudek, El Hadji Diouf, Jaime Carragher.
FRONT ROW (L-R) Sami Hyypiä, Milan Baros, Harry Kewell, Danny Murphy, Steven Gerard, Steve Finnan.

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY